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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

MADRAS PRESIDENCY

FOR THE YEAR

1926-27

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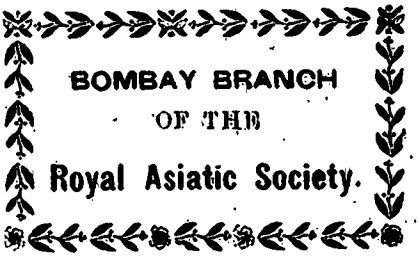

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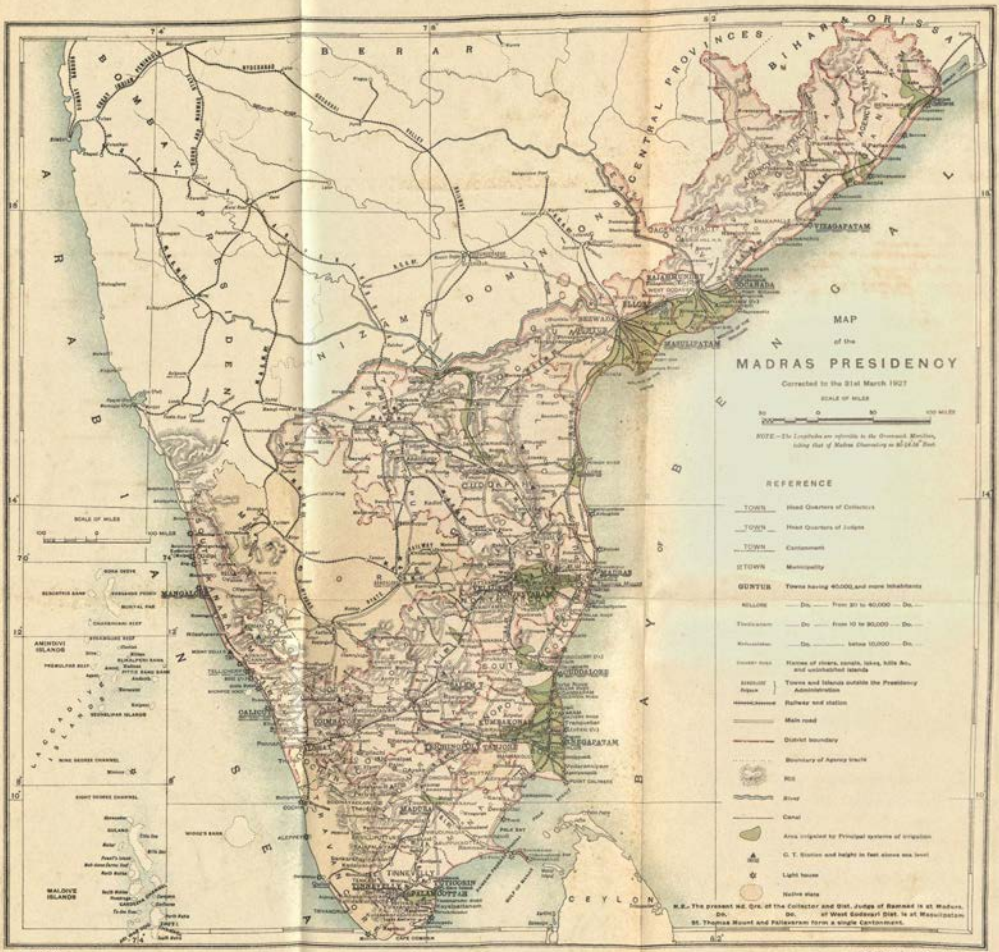

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1927

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PREFATORY NOTE

IN compliance with the orders of the Government of India, Part I of this publication—the "General Summary"—deals with the calendar year 1927, and Part II—the main report—with the official year 1926-27 except where it is specifically stated otherwise.

PART I

GENERAL SUMMARY

1. The year 1927 was coloured to some extent by the deficient monsoons of the previous year. Although these did not produce actual famine conditions, crops were indifferent and prices tended to rise in certain parts of the Presidency. Administratively, the direct result was the expenditure of public funds in providing employment in the affected areas. Indirectly, however, the effects run thread-like through the year. They are seen in the increase in criminal offences against property, augmenting in its turn the work of the criminal courts; in the swollen emigration to Ceylon; in the greater number of transactions involving the registration of documents; and in the activities of some of the Government departments. Certain experiments of the Agriculture and Fisheries departments were interrupted, while the Industries department was faced with a greater demand for boring operations than its resources permitted it to meet. The Presidency suffered again from the capriciousness of nature towards the close of the year, when a cyclone on the East Coast did considerable damage to trees and buildings and caused some loss of life in a belt of country extending over three districts. In 1927, however, the monsoons were more favourable and the crops therefore better, while further remissions in the provincial contribution have permitted a general expansion of Government activities. The following pages are studded with instances of increasing staff and developing expenditure, in

General

particular in the two all-important spheres of education and medical relief. Even so, the financial year 1927–28 is expected to close with a surplus of Rs. 95 lakhs.

The labour unrest that marked the year was in no sense the result of the conditions mentioned in the opening paragraph, confined as these conditions were to rural areas. The strikes in Madras and Coimbatore, while in part representing, perhaps, phenomena inseparable from a growing or nascent industrialism, did not lack the active support of political agitators. But a more permanent significance must be attached to the formation of a Labour Political Party. Its advent was not without its effect on local politics, marked during the year by the dictates of interest rather than of principle. The one breach of the peace resulting from labour unrest was, however, less serious than an isolated episode in the Kurnool district, where a band of fanatically-minded individuals attacked a police station and were only beaten off by a resort to firearms. Hindu-Muslim tension, though again prominent in the Nellore district and spasmodic in certain other districts, produced no serious disturbance.

The Ministry appointed after the general elections of 1926 continued in office throughout the year. The only two important administrative changes were the appointment of the Hon'ble Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell, C.S.I., C.I.E., C.B.E., V.D., I.C.S., and the Hon'ble Mr. N. Macmichael, C.S.I., I.C.S., as acting members of the Executive Council, the former during the second deputation to Geneva of the Hon'ble Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, K.C.I.E., and the latter during the absence on leave of the Hon'ble Mr. T. E. Moir, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.

2. The chief political interest of the year revolved around the efforts of the defeated Justice Party to re-establish its position, and the reaction of those efforts upon the solidarity of the Swarajists. Very early in the year signs were not wanting both of the inclination of the Justicites to co-operate with a section of the Swaraj Party and of divergences within the latter's ranks. It was generally felt that the Gauhati session of the Congress at the end of 1926 was negative in its results. While on the one hand it did nothing in itself to widen the divergences in the Nationalist Party, on the other hand it did nothing to remove them. It failed, it was thought, either to produce a formula likely to unify the various shades of opinion or to indicate any clear line of political advance. In this colourless atmosphere, the election of a non-Brahman to the leadership of the Swaraj Party in the Madras Council appears to have led to dissensions of a communal nature within the party. It soon became evident that there were two trends of thought, one group giving a qualified support to the Independent Ministry with the object of preventing a possible return to power of the Justicites, the other group desirous of wrecking the Ministry by downright obstruction and at all costs. In March the cleavage expressed itself in the voting on the motion of no-confidence introduced by the Justice Party. A number of Swarajists, including the leaders, refrained from voting and the motion was defeated by as many as 41 votes. This action, or negation of action, was attacked from all sides, even by Congressmen, and the members concerned were accused of breaking their election pledges and ignoring the Gauhati resolution. Although however the Party officially

Political

denied that there was any breach in its ranks—feeling, apparently, the necessity of denial—this was hardly convincing ; for, as will be seen, another manifestation of communal jealousy appeared later in the year. In the meantime the Justicites decided upon a revision of tactics. At a meeting of the Non-Brahman Federation in July, it was resolved firstly that individual members of the Justice Party might join the Congress and connected institutions, and secondly, that the Party would not accept office until provincial autonomy had been granted. The first of these resolutions was ostensibly intended to benefit the Congress rather than the Justice Party, for, it was announced, Congress would be revivified by the influx of new non-Brahman blood. But it may well be doubted whether the adoption of this more extreme policy was not designed not only to swamp Congress with members of the Justice Party but also to attract the non-Brahman Swarajists, becoming more and more suspicious of the communal leanings of their Brahman leaders. If it did not foster it certainly did not remove the dissensions among the Swarajists, and the Swarajist motion of no-confidence, moved and defeated in August, represented perhaps an attempt to cement the party as well as a counter to the Justicite move. At all events, the stage was well set for the last scene of the year. This was at the election of the President of the Madras Corporation. Brahman intrigues, it is alleged, induced the withdrawal of the Party leader, a non-Brahman, in order to ensure the election of the other Congress candidate, a Brahman. This move was however forestalled by the Justicites, who adopted the retiring President as their official candidate at a late stage and

secured his election. The result was a display of feeling obviously communal.

At the end of the year, however, divergences were dispelled and a new situation created from without. The announcement of the personnel of the Royal Commission provided an opportunity not only for general criticism but also for the suggestion that sectional interests have been sunk in the face of a common discontent. While the Justicites have not yet, as a party, avowed their intention, the Swarajists are apparently united in the threat to boycott the Commission.

Justicite tactics and internal dissensions, however, were not the only Swarajist troubles of the year. April saw the emergence of a novel feature in Madras politics by the formation of a Labour Political Party. Its immediate cause was undoubtedly the visit to Madras of Mr. S. Saklatvala, M.P., in February. He was not only able to invent a Madras "proletariat," urging its members to join the Trades Unions and to form new organizations such as Peasants' and Workers' parties and a Young Comrades' League, but he also derided Mr. Gandhi's khaddar movement and Dr. Besant's Commonwealth of India Bill. This gospel plainly shaped the policy of the new party. Its avowed objects are to safeguard the interests of the working classes and to obtain their representation in the Madras Corporation. In addition, however, its leader and organizer, the most fervent of local communist disciples, stated in no ambiguous terms that "labour" would have no truck with Congress, that stronghold of landlordism, capitalism and private ownership—a denunciation of Congress remarkable less for its insight that for its belatedness. It is at any rate

not surprising that the existence of the new party as a separate entity aroused no enthusiasm among the Swarajists. Their attempts to ingratiate themselves with labour, however, have not so far met with conspicuous success, the infant Labour Party having resisted all blandishments from either of the older groups. An instance of this independent attitude was the hostile reception accorded to two Swarajist leaders who had hoped to address a labourers' meeting, but retired with their speeches undelivered. The independence of the new party was apparently sealed by the success of two of its candidates in the municipal elections in August, and it seems possible that it has come to stay as a separate political organization.

The restlessness of labour was by no means confined to this political manifestation. There were several strikes in Madras City during the year, the most serious being a general strike of the employees of the three big oil companies. Politically, their importance lay in the influence of certain agitators of avowed communist tendencies, of whom the most prominent was the organizer of the new Labour Political Party. It was not therefore always clear whether the grievances that moved the men were actually felt or merely actively fomented. Negotiations too were often rendered difficult by the participation of political agitators, whose demands invariably went beyond the original causes of discontent behind the strike. The strike of the mill workers at Coimbatore, described in the paragraph on Labour, was of the same order. Railway employees also were not free from the prevailing fever. The strike in the Bengal-Nagpur Railway early in the year affected the northern districts of the

Presidency and was followed by signs of discontent both in the Madras and Southern Mahratta and South Indian Railways. In these cases however the political element was negligible, the men preferring the services of reputable leaders and discarding those of the professional agitator.

A prominent though less important feature of the year was the agitation for the removal of the statue of General Neill which stands opposite to the Madras Club in the leading thoroughfare of the City. The movement began in August with an attempt on the part of two Congress volunteers, inspired apparently by the spirit of the Nagpur Arms Satyagraha, to deface the statue. An earlier ebullition of the same spirit, also prompted by one of these two young men, had appeared in Madura but had speedily collapsed. In Madras, however, the agitation was pursued with enthusiasm by local orators of the street-corner type and certain drastic action taken by General Neill during the Mutiny was vigorously denounced. The disapproval of responsible politicians, however, together with dissensions, due to alleged irregularities in the disposal of the funds collected, and frequent changes among the leaders, soon revealed the factitious nature of the agitation and the general public began to regard the almost daily attempts on the statue as a cheap and amusing form of entertainment. Attempts to revive the agitation were, as anticipated, made during Congress Week, but without success. The movement has importance only in so far as it illustrates tendencies and influences at work among the less stable political elements.

Mr. Gandhi's tour in the Presidency in August and September gave a temporary fillip to the

khaddar movement, but his advocacy of total prohibition met with little enthusiasm, the efforts of his followers to collect funds with disappointing response, while his condemnation of certain social evils in Hindu society aroused a definite feeling of hostility. A not uninteresting feature of his visit was the use of so essentially Western an invention as the loud speaker.

Other matters of political significance were the Chinese situation, the publication of "Mother India" and the Rangila Rasul judgment. The first attracted some attention early in the year, the despatch of troops and ships giving occasion for protest meetings against the alleged interference by Great Britain in China's fight for self-determination. The passing of the crisis and the complexity of the political situation in China resulted, however, in the speedy disappearance of popular interest.

The publication of Miss Mayo's "Mother India" aroused, as in other provinces, a storm of criticism centring in its political aspect in the allegation that the publication was deliberately staged in order to prejudice opinion against the grant of a further instalment of reforms.

The judgment in the Rangila Rasul case created a certain amount of unrest among the Muslim population and numerous protest meetings were held. The prompt action of the Government of India, however, in amending the legislation on the subject, went far to allay the feeling of anxiety.

In the closing days of the year the annual session of the Indian National Congress was held in Madras. It resolved that the goal of the Indian people is complete national independence and that the Simon Commission should be effectively

boycotted, but produced nothing of constructive value. At the same time were held an All-India Khilafat Conference, the fifth session of the Indian Industrial and Commercial Congress, and several other conferences of a minor character. The various meetings passed off without incident though not without excitement.

3. Owing to the inadequacy of both monsoons in the previous year the season opened unfavourably, and although the southern districts received fair rains from January to March, other districts suffered from drought, particularly those in the Deccan, Guntūr, and Nellore. To provide employment for unskilled labourers in these areas, the routine programmes for the repair of Government minor irrigation works were expanded as far as possible and local boards undertook the construction of roads and other works. These works, the full cost of which was met in most cases by the Government, together with liberal advances under the Land Improvements and Agriculturists' Loans Acts, enabled the labourers to tide over the period of scarcity. **Economic**

The south-west monsoon became active generally in the beginning of June and continued with fair rains until the middle of August, when, except in the Northern Circars and on the West Coast, there was a lull until the middle of September. From then onwards the monsoon was satisfactory in most districts.

The north-east monsoon opened in full strength in the beginning of November, the rains being particularly heavy in the Carnatic and the Circars, but ended abruptly in the middle of the month. Since then the rainfall has been defective. In spite of the deficiency of this monsoon, however,

the seasonal prospects were greatly improved by the generally favourable character of the south-west monsoon.

A severe cyclone crossed the East Coast on the night of November 1st and affected the districts of Nellore, Guntūr and Cuddapah. Nellore suffered most severely ; 629 persons were killed and many buildings were destroyed. In Cuddapah there were fifty-four casualties and considerable losses in cattle, while in Guntūr some damage was done to irrigation works. The standing crops, however, were generally little affected. Relief operations under both Government and private direction were immediately started and the work of restoration is proceeding rapidly.

Legislative Council

4. The Madras Legislative Council sat on thirty-eight days during the year, of which twenty-four were allotted to official and fourteen to non-official business. The official bills that were passed during the year were:—

A Bill to amend the Presidency Small Cause Courts Act,

A Bill to amend the Madras Prevention of Adulteration Act, 1918,

The Madras High Courts (Jurisdictional Limits) Bill,

A Bill to repeal the Madras Planters' Labour Act, 1903, and

A Bill to amend the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act, 1926.

The Presidency Small Cause Courts (Amendment) Act permits the institution in the Madras City Civil Court of suits in challenge of summary orders of ejectment from and for title to immovable property passed under Chapter VII of the Presidency Small Cause Courts Act, which

heretofore could be instituted only in the High Court. The Madras Prevention of Adulteration (Amendment) Act was intended to remedy certain defects in the existing Act pointed out by the Public Analyst, in general to render the Act more effective and in particular to prevent the sale of watered milk and the sale as milk of "foremilk" (viz., the first portion of the yield, containing less than the essential quantity of fat). The Madras High Court (Jurisdictional Limits) Act defines the limits of the ordinary original civil jurisdiction of the Madras High Court as provided by clause eleven of the Letters Patent so as to correspond with the limits of the town fixed by notification under section 62 of the Government of India Act. The Madras Planters' Labour (Repealing) Act repeals the Madras Planters' Labour Act with effect from the 1st day of January 1929. The Madras Hindu Religious Endowments (Amendment) Act empowers the local Government to appoint for a further period not exceeding one year members of new temple committees constituted under section 22 of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act, 1926.

The Tuticorin Port Trust (Amendment) Bill was the only non-official Bill passed by the Madras Legislative Council during the year. It was intended to provide adequate representation on the Tuticorin Trust Board of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Tuticorin, by permitting that body to return three elected members to the Board.

The number of resolutions tabled during the year (excluding those for adjournment or on the budget) was 1,873, or more than double the number of the previous year, of which 17 were actually discussed. The most important was that

calling upon the Government to start famine-relief measures in the areas affected by the deficient monsoon. The nature of the measures adopted to provide employment in those areas has been mentioned in the previous paragraph. Another important resolution recommended the appointment of a committee to enquire into the state of the co-operative movement and to suggest measures for its improvement ; this committee was constituted in September.

The number of resolutions on the budget was 1,148, most of which were in the nature of token motions for discussing questions of administrative interest. Fourteen adjournment motions were moved to "discuss definite matters of urgent public importance," of which 5 were disallowed by the President of the Council and one, deploring the despatch of troops to China, by His Excellency the Governor. Of the remaining 8, 6 were actually discussed and 2 withdrawn. Three of them raised questions connected with the execution of the Cauvery-Mettur project.

It is noteworthy that no budget allotments were certified by His Excellency the Governor during the year : in addition to token cuts of Rs. 100, only one reduction, of Rs. 5 lakhs in the demand for police administration, was voted by the Council.

The marked decrease in the number of questions by non-official members that was remarked last year in response to the President's request for their more discreet application, was not maintained during the year under report. The number of questions received was 2,351, nearly double that of last year. Of the 2,221 questions admitted, 2,117 were answered in Council, 1,592 of them being starred questions.

5. The year was noticeable for an increase in the volume of grave crime. Dacoities, robberies, house-breakings, thefts, and thefts of cattle all increased in number, ranging from 3 per cent in the case of thefts to 19 per cent in the case of robberies. This regrettable feature is attributed to the unfavourable agricultural season and the consequent economic stress. In Madras City, crime was normal. Several criminals from other provinces were arrested, including two Pathan house-breakers from the North-West Frontier Province. Police

Detection in general showed improvement. A number of criminal gangs responsible for organized crime were traced and proceedings initiated against them.

A serious though short-lived disturbance occurred in the Kurnool district during the year. The members of a certain religious institution, fanatically enraged at the arrest of two of their number, attacked the police station where the two prisoners were confined and demanded their release. The police were obliged to open fire, killing seven of the rioters. Twenty-six of the assailants were charged; one died in hospital before trial and the remaining 25 were convicted. Both the Sessions Judge on appeal and the High Court on revision declined to interfere with the conviction. The firing by the police was held by the Government to be justified.

No other serious disturbances occurred during the year. In the Coimbatore district, 5,000 mill workers were on strike for 25 days, but a breach of the peace was averted by commendable police organization. This strike is more fully described in the paragraph on Labour.

The King's Police Medal was awarded to three officers and a bar to the medal to two officers. The order of C.I.E. was conferred on the Inspector-General, while Indian titles were awarded to four officers.

Eighty sub-inspectors and six inspectors were recruited and sent for training to the school at Vellore. The 220 vacancies that arose in the ranks of the force during the year were filled without difficulty.

Criminal justice

6. The increase in the volume of grave crime that has been remarked in the paragraph dealing with the police administration was particularly noticeable in the districts of Madura and Kurnool. Coimbatore, where it was found necessary to appoint a second additional sessions judge for a period of four months, continued to maintain its precedence among districts in murders and culpable homicide. In Anantapur also, an additional sessions judge was appointed for one month as a result of the rise in the number of sessions cases.

No political offences occurred during the year except the Neill statue demonstration, described in the paragraph on political matters.

An interesting feature of the year was the appointment in Madras City of six honorary Presidency Magistrates, empowered to sit singly and to exercise the powers of a Presidency Magistrate. In three months they disposed of 105 cases and their work appears to have given general satisfaction.

Civil justice

7. There was no marked change in the quantity or character of civil litigation in the Presidency as a whole during the year. In certain district munsifs' courts the number of original suits instituted has fallen, but this seems to be due less to

any diminution in the volume of litigation than to the enhancement of the small cause jurisdiction of subordinate judges and selected district munsifs and to the working of village and panchayat courts. There was a large increase in the number of land acquisition cases in West Tanjore arising out of the Cauvery-Mettur project and of compensation cases in West Gōdāvari owing to the acquisition of lands by the M. & S.M. Railway company in connection with the construction of a new line from Nidadavole to Narasapur.

Twelve additional subordinate judges and twenty additional district munsifs were employed in the course of the year. Several of these were attached to courts that have now continued without a break for a number of years and the question of the permanent retention of these courts is under examination.

In Madras there has been a marked rise in the institution of suits in the City Civil Court and a slight fall in the number of institutions in the Presidency Court of Small Causes.

In the High Court the two additional judges continued to work throughout the year and, as in 1926, three judges sat on the original side for the greater part of the year. On the appellate side there has been a distinct increase in the type of cases that furnish the courts with the larger part of their work, that is, in first and second appeals, civil revision petitions and civil miscellaneous petitions. A check has been given to the increase in Letters Patent appeals by discontinuing the system of the hearing of second appeals by a single judge. It was found that the saving of judicial time thus effected was more than counterbalanced by the number of Letters Patent appeals

filed against the decisions of single judges. On the original side there has been a fall both in the institution of original suits and in the number of these suits still awaiting trial.

Prisons

8. The daily average prison population again fell during the year under report. Jail discipline continued to be good; the number of prison offences slightly decreased, while those exceptional cases in which resort to corporal punishment is necessary were only five. The health of the prisoners was in general satisfactory, although the sick and mortality rates were higher than in the previous year. Pulmonary tuberculosis alone was responsible for 54 deaths, a fact which emphasizes the necessity for the special jail, now under construction, for prisoners suffering from this disease. There was a scarcity of water in certain jails as a result of the deficient monsoon, but it was found possible to meet the situation in each case by special arrangements.

One hundred and twenty-one prisoners were conditionally released on the recommendation of the advisory boards. The Government also sanctioned the release during 1928 and subsequent years, before the actual expiry of their sentences, of a large number of Mappilla prisoners. Three hundred and thirty-eight prisoners, including a number of Mappillas, were sent to the Andamans in connection with the scheme for the colonization of those islands, some of them with their families.

The provisions of the Madras Children Act were extended throughout the Presidency during the year. The various certified schools continued to work satisfactorily, following a system of training which included moral, religious, physical

and industrial instruction as well as general education.

The Madras Borstal Schools Act, which provides for the training of adolescent offenders between the ages of 16 and 21, was brought into force with effect from March. Seventy-nine youths (some of whom were Mappillas) were released on licence from the Borstal School at Tanjore during the year for service under private employers. This comparatively large number (28 were similarly released in the previous year) places a serious burden on the Borstal Association. Much careful supervision of an unobtrusive nature has to be exercised if the lessons of the Borstal School are not to be lost in the liberty that succeeds its discipline. The Association's work will be watched by the Government with deep interest.

The Central Committee of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society and many district committees did good work during the year, in spite of the apathy of the general public. The Government has under consideration the question of making an additional grant to the Society.

Registration and Companies

9. As a result of various administrative changes effected during the year, the number of separate subordinate registry offices was increased by 7. The total number of documents registered rose by 5 per cent as compared with the year 1926. This increase is attributed to the difficulties felt in certain parts of the Presidency owing to the defective rainfall, indifferent crops, and comparatively high food prices.

This situation was also reflected in the registration of new companies. Trade conditions and the money market continued to be as unfavourable as

in the previous year, when a fall in the number of new flotations was remarked. Not only were new registrations less numerous than usual, but they were exceeded in number by failures among existing companies. The largest flotation of the year was the T.C.P.A. Ela Sarakku Virpanai Company in Madura district, with a capital of Rs. 27 lakhs, organized in the interests of local cardamom traders. More than half of the new flotations were either trading and manufacturing concerns or banking and loan companies.

Co-operation

10. In pursuance of a resolution passed by the Legislative Council, the Government in September appointed a committee consisting of both official and non-official members to enquire into the state of the co-operative movement and to suggest measures for effecting the improvements found to be necessary. The committee recorded evidence in various parts of the Presidency and its labours are now nearing completion.

The Government sanctioned during the year the appointment of three additional inspectors in each district, two for general administrative work and one to expedite the liquidation of those societies whose registration has been cancelled. The appointment of 14 additional senior inspectors for the supervision of societies engaged in non-credit activities, was also sanctioned.

Honorary assistant registrars were reduced in number from 231 to 21 and the duties hitherto performed by them will be entrusted in future to arbitrators appointed by the Department.

The working of the movement during the year is remarkable for its large expansion, as many as 1,455 new societies having been registered, and for the partial absorption into the movement of the

large surplus balances of the previous year. At the end of the co-operative year, June 30th, there were over 13,000 societies at work.

The collection of loans due to societies showed a slight improvement in the case of agricultural societies and a decline in the case of the central banks ; in general it is still far from satisfactory. The Central Urban Bank and the district central banks enjoyed a successful year, while the divisible profits of the primary societies, both agricultural and non-agricultural, were also in general appreciable. The trading activities of non-credit societies, however, were not so brisk as in the previous year, although the volume of transactions in the shape of loans advanced on the security of standing crops and agricultural produce was considerable. Labour contract societies, the number of which increased during the year, are gradually establishing themselves. Those in the Tanjore district were able to secure the contracts for the execution of large piece works in connection with the Cauvery-Mettur irrigation project. The organization of irrigation societies in dry areas for the erection of power pumps for lifting water received particular attention during the year and budget provision for the grant of loans to them has now been made.

Of the ten land mortgage banks, a comparatively new and experimental feature of the movement, their chief object being to enable ryots to clear off old debts on their lands, two are now in working order. The public response in purchasing debentures has not so far been eager, in spite of the Government's example, but it is yet too soon to say that matters will not improve in this respect.

A third propagandist union was established during the year in the Tanjore district. These unions hold classes for the training of supervisors and of aspirants for posts in the movement and also direct the dissemination of educational propaganda, in which activities they have been aided by small Government grants. The proposal to extend this form of subsidy to all district federations was accepted by the Government during the year and a budget allotment for the purpose was made.

Local Boards and Municipalities

11. The local fund district of Kistna was divided during the year into two districts, Kistna and West Gōdāvari, co-terminous with the revenue districts of those names. There are now 25 district boards in the Presidency. Three district boards, including the new Kistna board, and one taluk board, were given the privilege of electing the president. Two taluk boards and two union boards were dissolved and reconstituted during the year, being found incompetent to discharge their statutory functions. Two municipal councils also were superseded on the ground of incompetency.

The unspent balance, amounting to Rs. 1 lakh, of the grants made to local bodies in the financial year 1926–27 for the improvement of village communications was reallotted during the year, together with additional grants of nearly Rs. 10 lakhs.

The Madras Local Authorities Entertainments Tax Act of 1926, which empowers local bodies to levy an amusement tax, came into force in September last.

Trade and Ports

12. The total value of the Presidency's trade rose from Rs. 6 crores in 1926 to Rs. 7 crores in

1927. The large increase in imports, due partly to the stabilisation of the rupee exchange and partly to the settlement of the coal strike in England, was most marked in metals and ores, iron and steel, machinery, motor cars, mineral oils, rolling stock, raw silk and coal and coke. Although, however, the increase in exports, chiefly in groundnut, pepper, coffee, tea, and tanned hides and skins, was less marked, the balance of trade remained favourable.

The trade through the Port of Madras continues to expand. There was an increase in the total tonnage of goods handled during the year and a corresponding increase in revenue. The Port of Tuticorin, the second most important port in the Presidency, enjoyed a similarly successful year.

The construction of the new dry dock at Tuticorin is nearing completion, and rapid progress has been made on the new deep water quay at Madras. Improvements at several of the minor ports were also completed or in progress during the year.

Agriculture

13. The staff of the Agricultural Department was augmented during the year. Two new gazetted posts—lecturing chemist and bacteriologist—were created, and 35 subordinate posts, 21 in the Agricultural section and 14 in the Science section.

There were 130 applicants for admission to the Agricultural College—almost twice the number in 1926—of whom 41 were selected. The results of the University examinations were satisfactory, 43 of the 49 candidates for the final examination obtaining the degree. Of the two agricultural middle schools, that at Taliparamba has now 40 students and appears likely to be permanently successful,

but that at Anakapalle has had an indifferent career and was finally closed in December.

The production and trial of improved strains of paddy was continued at the four paddy-breeding stations and several new strains will be ready for the next agricultural season. Over 82,000 lb. of seed were issued, but the demand was again far in excess of the supply available at the Aduthurai station, amounting to as much as 640,000 lb. Similar breeding work on cotton was carried on at the station now devoted exclusively to that purpose. The Cotton Transport Act worked smoothly in the protected area in the Ceded Districts, but difficulties arose in that in the south of the Presidency owing to the importation of unginned cotton of inferior quality. The Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act continued in force and in the marking of bales, its central feature, there has been a steady improvement. Investigations into the technique of cultivation of cotton and sugarcane proceeded during the year. The Government of India have now completely taken over the sugarcane breeding station at Coimbatore. Some 50 acres of land were formally acquired in extension of the experimental station at Anakapalle and will serve as a testing ground for the thick canes needed in this Presidency. Work on the evolution of improved strains of millets continued and the opening of a special sub-station for this purpose is under consideration. The study of potato cultivation has shown that deeper cultivation gives better results and further experiments in the light of this conclusion were in progress during the year. The efficacy of spraying coffee crops with Bordeaux mixture as a protection against fungoid diseases

has been definitely established and most planters have now adopted the practice. Experiments were also continued on fodder crops, groundnut—in which, however, work was hampered by the deficient monsoon—and betelvine.

The Chemistry section completed its survey of the soil in North Malabar and continued its manurial investigations, particularly into the possibilities of synthetic farmyard manure and the effect of manuring on the vitality and nutritive value of the seed.

The policy of demonstrating in practical form the improvements advocated by the Department is becoming more and more popular and another demonstration area—a larger species of the demonstration plot—was started during the year. In addition to improved strains of seed and better methods of cultivation, the Department is persistent in demonstrating the value of a simple iron plough free from many of the limitations of the primitive country plough. Over 2,000 iron ploughs were sold through its agency during the year.

There was little change during the year in the application of the Agricultural Pests and Diseases Act. The success of the regulations, as at present framed, for the protection of cotton against the pink boll-worm is still doubtful. Unless some improvement is soon manifest, it may be necessary to bring forward the date at present prescribed for the eradication of the crop, to apply the Act to a wider area and to extend it to other varieties of cotton in addition to Cambodia. The palm disease prevalent in the Northern Circars appears to be on the wane, but the application of the Act and the retention of the special staff are still necessary. The coconut caterpillar pest continues to spread on

the West Coast and the Act was extended to Malabar in November. Measures have been devised by the special staff which will, it is hoped, prevent the pest from spreading further.

Several agricultural exhibitions were held during the year, that at the Congress camp in December holidays being particularly successful. Much importance is attached to these exhibitions as agencies for the Department's propaganda work.

Veterinary

14. The activities of the Government in the sphere of veterinary service continue to expand. Eleven new veterinary institutions were opened during the year, bringing the total number in the Presidency to 93. There were eight vacancies at the end of the year in the subordinate staff of assistant surgeons, the sanctioned strength of which is 230, for which suitable men were not available.

Rinderpest continued to prevail in several districts and was particularly severe in the districts of Malabar, Chingleput and the Nilgiris. The measures necessary to combat the disease were actively pursued by the Department. The Cattle Disease Act was applied in 14 districts in order to make inoculation compulsory in badly affected areas. Inoculation was chiefly carried out on the serum-alone system, although more animals were rendered permanently immune by the alternative serum-simultaneous method than in the previous year. The unusually severe outbreak of black-quarter that occurred in certain parts of the Presidency in 1926 continued during the year under report, being particularly virulent in the Trichinopoly district. This disease was also met by a campaign of inoculation.

Research work in the treatment of certain cattle diseases was continued during the year at the

Madras Veterinary College. The usual six months' post-graduate class was held at the College, at which three veterinary assistant surgeons from Bihar and Orissa attended as well as four from this Presidency.

15. The deficient monsoon that characterized the year affected the Fisheries Department also. Several tanks prematurely dried up and the income usually derived from them was lost. On the other hand, the two pearl fisheries off Tuticorin were again remarkably successful and have already yielded a revenue of more than Rs. 4 lakhs although the second fishery is still in progress. **Fisheries**

The fish farms also suffered from the indifferent monsoon, particularly those at Perambur and Vellore. Two new farms were opened during the year and will permit the extension of the breeding work now being carried on by the Department. The cultural experiments on catla, introduced into ponds, yielded particularly gratifying results during the year, demonstrating the possibilities of this important North Indian food fish in the Madras Presidency.

The trawling experiments in the early part of the year were disappointing, but in November extensive fishery banks were discovered off Cape Comorin, most of the hauls each yielding about a ton of fish.

Fishing in general was not as satisfactory at the beginning of the year as had been anticipated, but after the monsoon a marked improvement was noticeable on the Malabar Coast. Although sardines were not plentiful, there were several heavy catches of mackerel and the fish-curing yards were busily employed. Unfortunately, however, the cyclone in November caused great

damage to several yards in the districts of Chingleput and Nellore and many fishermen were seriously affected.

The experiments on the culture of edible oysters that were conducted at Ennur and Pulicat in the early part of the year led to the discovery of an unsuspected mollusc pest in the farmer locality, but a suitable area was found at Pûlicat in which the operations are now being concentrated. As a result of the work so far done, the degree of salinity most favourable to the development of the young oyster has been determined.

An important result of the year's research work was the preparation of a solution of sodium hypochlorite suitable for the preservation of fish. The sodium hypochlorite required for these experiments was successfully manufactured at the Marine Aquarium by electrolysing sea-water.

The researches into the sardine and mackerel at the Calicut station were continued throughout the year.

Progress was also made on the sociological side. The number of fisher children, both boys and girls, attending school increased. A new association, with literary aims, was formed, composed mainly of school-going members of the fishing community. The association is also carrying on propaganda work in fishing hamlets in the care of children and hygiene generally. Some improvement was made among the co-operative societies in Malabar, where they had shown signs of decline last year. On the East Coast, another co-operative society was formed with a view to organizing the working of river and tank fisheries and excluding the middleman. There are now six societies of this nature at work.

16. The present area of the State forests is 19,028 square miles. About 110 square miles of forest land was in process of settlement during the year. **Forests**

Following the Government's classification of the forests into "provincial", to be administered by the Forest Department, and "local", to be administered by village panchayats, almost all the "local" area (about one-sixth of the total area) has now been transferred to panchayat management. An immediate result of this process has been a reduction in the strength of the Forest Department; one division and two ranges were abolished during the year. Another result has been a fall in the number of offences dealt with by the Forest Department. The organization and supervision of these panchayats have now been entrusted to district collectors.

The panchayats constituted under the Forest village system, not for independent management but with a view to enlist the goodwill and co-operation of the ryots in official forest conservancy, worked fairly satisfactorily in some districts but indifferently in others, notably in South Kanara.

The exploitation operations in the Chenāt Nayar reserve and the working of the Olavakot saw-mill resulted in increased output and sales as compared with the previous year, when a considerable loss was incurred. The Russellkonda Saw-mill continued to work on the same lines as last year, when an appreciable profit was made, but it is possible that the present system for supplying the mill with timber may shortly have to be revised.

A final decision on the question of installing a paper and pulp plant by private enterprise in the Pāpanāsam forests has not yet been reached, but

investigation shows that there is an ample supply of reed and that the regeneration of the forest presents no difficulties

The extraction of railway sleepers from the Anamalai forests, as a preliminary to the replanting of the denuded areas with cinchona, is proving profitable and an extension of the operations is under consideration. A contract for the supply of narrow gauge sleepers for the Cauvery-Mettur project was undertaken and most of the sleepers ordered during the year were supplied. A further meeting of forest and railway officers was held with a view to devising means for rendering useful in sleeper form, timber which is not at present accepted for that purpose. Further investigations suggested by the conference are in progress.

Industries 17. The survey of cottage industries, undertaken with a view to their revival and establishment on an economic basis as subsidiary occupations for agriculturists in the non-agricultural season, was completed in four districts during the year. In addition to the special officer already engaged, the Government have recently deputed three tahsildars to this duty.

The two Government industrial institutions continued to work during the year. The Kerala Soap Institute, Calicut, embarked on its revised career as, primarily, an instructional centre, by admitting six students, who will be trained in the theory and practice of soap manufacture and the analysis of soaps and oils. The Institute took part during the year in 11 exhibitions in various parts of the Presidency and in Mysore and was awarded several medals and certificates for its exhibits. At the Government Industrial Institute,

Madras, in addition to the usual manufacture of ink and ink-powders, experiments were conducted with a view to reducing the cost of producing printing ink, while the manufacture of marking ink and the purification of lamp black were also investigated.

The Department also pursues external activities calculated to develop existing industries. The five peripatetic weaving parties continued to demonstrate the Department's hand-driven sizing machine and to distribute warp, prepared in most cases from yarns supplied by the weavers themselves. The Textile Institute provided as usual two courses of instruction, one for supervisors and one for artisans. Several new appliances were made and added to the existing machinery in the Institute, particularly in the dyeing section. The peripatetic silk-worm rearing party was augmented during the year, and in addition to its usual work of testing layings and providing facilities for spinning, was able to assist in bringing fresh areas under mulberry cultivation. On the research side, the work of hybridization has been retarded by the outbreak of the fungoid disease on the Department's silk farm at Coonoor, not yet brought under control. The Engineering section was active in dealing with orders for the installation of private machinery and in repairing and renewing machinery hired out by the Department. In addition, it was able to manufacture a power-driven wooden oil-mill of the rotary type, a woollen warping mill and three wooden sizing machines. Boring operations increased markedly during the year. The demand for borings, was, in fact, so great, owing to the deficient monsoon and the scarcity of water in certain parts of the

Presidency, that it was met only with difficulty, in spite of increased equipment. The purchase of three more power drills of improved type has now been sanctioned. Substantial reductions were made during the year in the scale of fees charged for work done by this section of the Department, which, it is hoped, will bring these facilities within easy reach of the poorer classes of agriculturists. In addition, a number of pumping installations were financed by loans from public funds. Lastly, the Bureau of Industrial and Commercial Information continued to supply technical information and to put inquirers into touch with markets.

Mention has already been made of the Textile and Soap Institutes. In the sphere of industrial education the Department performs some of its most important work. The Madras Trades School is growing in popularity : applicants for admission were again numerous and of a higher standard of general education. In the case of the preparatory classes, a new feature, many applicants had to be refused admission for lack of accommodation. Of the remaining three Government educational institutions, the School of Arts and Crafts and the Madura Industrial Institute were also efficiently maintained, but the Leather Trades Institute has failed to attract students and its closure is under consideration. Industrial schools recognized by the Government increased in number to 61, all of which except six are aided by grants from public funds. Three State scholarships for the study of technical subjects in the United Kingdom were awarded. The rules governing the award of these scholarships were revised during the year and the selection board reconstituted. Other scholarships

awarded during the year were five tenable at the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Bombay, seven at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, one at the Leather Trades Institute, and 60 industrial scholarships at various recognized schools.

Eleven applications for financial assistance under the State Aid to Industries Act were received during the year, some of which are still under the consideration of the Board of Industries constituted under the Act. Two concerns were actually assisted during the year. A match factory in the Bellary district was granted a loan of Rs. 20,000, while the Carnatic Paper Mills received loans amounting to Rs. 21,000 to enable the Company to meet its current liabilities pending the decision of the Government on its application for further assistance on a large scale.

18. A wave of labour unrest broke over the City of Madras in the first half of the year. A strike among the workmen of the Burmah Oil Company in protest against a reduction in staff and the removal of certain benches from the machine shop, reached a climax in May. The oil workers' union had been active and the Company had been asked to concede demands embracing, as usual, much more than the original points at issue. Official and unofficial mediation had, however, almost contrived a settlement when, on 10th May, at Tondiarpet, one of the Company's lorries was attacked and set on fire by some of the more turbulent strikers. A free fight ensued between the strikers and some of the Company's staff, and police intervention became necessary. **Labour**

The excitement engendered by this fracas spread rapidly throughout the oil industry, and the workmen of the Asiatic Petroleum Company and

the Standard Oil Company struck in sympathy. Violent tendencies, however, happily subsided after the collision with the police, more sober counsels gradually prevailed, and the men returned to work on 17th May. In the friendly atmosphere then established, the criminal prosecutions arising from the fight on the 10th were withdrawn. The security proceedings against the most prominent of the agitators were also dropped, on his undertaking to refrain from oratory likely to incite to violence.

The oil workers' strike was followed by strikes in the workshops of the Public Works Department, in the Diocesan Press and among the employees of Messrs. Massey & Co. The first lasted only a few days but the other two dragged on for three or four months. The leaders, failing to secure the men's demands, attempted to engineer a general strike of all the labourers in the City. In this, however, they were unsuccessful, the spectacle of the difficulties endured by the men on strike having produced a sobering effect.

In August the strike fever spread to the mill workers of Coimbatore. Two strikes passed off without incident, but a third, caused by the suspension of three weavers in the Coimbatore Spinning and Weaving Mills for assaulting one of the staff and by attempts to replace them, developed into a general strike in each of the three mills in the town. In all, some 5,000 men struck work. There were frequent meetings and a procession, some rowdyism and stone-throwing, but the situation was never out of control. The strike ended in September after prolonged negotiations.

Some unrest also arose on the railways. The employees of the Madras and Southern Mahratta

Railway were disturbed by a measure of retrenchment limiting the hours of work and thereby involving a reduction in wages. Their grievances were represented to the Agent by deputations and no untoward trouble occurred. Considerable discontent was caused also among the South Indian Railway workmen by the decision to concentrate all the workshops at a single centre, viz., Golden Rock, and the consequent reduction in staff. There was much talk of a general strike, but in December it was agreed by both sides to await the result of the contemplated enquiry into the causes of discontent.

The Trade Unions Bill, passed in 1926, came into force on 1st June 1927. Only four unions have so far applied for registration under the Act. The Employers' Federation has not yet applied.

Claims under the Workmen's Compensation Act continue to increase. The working of the Act having revealed certain defects and anomalies, suggestions for its improvement are under consideration.

The Factories Act was administered with vigour during the year, particular attention being paid to sanitation, the employment of children, and the regulations designed to ensure the safety of employees. Prosecutions were instituted where necessary and fines amounting to nearly Rs. 15,000 were imposed by the courts.

Emigration to Ceylon increased by more than 50 per cent during the year and is attributed to the difficulties of labouring classes in the usual recruiting areas occasioned by the deficient monsoon. The stream of emigration to Malaya continued during the greater part of the year but fell towards the end of the year, the reimposition

of the restriction on rubber production having reduced the demand for labour. A number of labourers were assisted in returning to Madras under the scheme forming part of the agreement recently concluded between the Governments of India and South Africa. A special officer has now been appointed to look after these repatriates.

The activities connected with the amelioration of the depressed classes were extended to three more districts during the year, and special staffs under district labour officers are now at work in 15 out of the 26 districts. The work followed the usual line of providing house-sites, wells, lands for cultivation, schools, scholarships, and the organization of co-operative societies.

The work of reclaiming the Kallars in the districts of Madura, Rāmnād and Tanjore continued to progress, marred during the year under report, however, by a general increase in crime. More schools and co-operative societies have been established, and in Tanjore, where regular work was begun only last year, an industrial centre for weaving and tailoring has already been started.

The various criminal settlements worked well throughout the year. Weaving operations at Sitanagaram have been considerably extended and an additional 150 acres of land brought under cultivation at Stuartpuram. The Kāvali settlement, however, suffered from the cyclone in November, several buildings being destroyed and a few inmates killed.

Twelve new tribes, found addicted to the systematic commission of non-bailable offences, were notified under the Criminal Tribes Act. The recent relaxation of the statutory rules requiring

members of criminal tribes to report themselves periodically at police stations is reported to have had a bad effect in one district and to have led to crime, but on the general effect throughout the Presidency it is yet too soon to express an opinion.

Public works

19. The creation of several new charges was sanctioned during the year. In the Gōdāvari deltaic area, a new division was tentatively formed for a period of two years, in particular to relieve the existing Eastern Division, over-burdened as a result of the retrenchments of 1922 and the execution, now in progress, of the Polavaram Island project, and in general to ensure due attention to the improvement of irrigation and drainage in the delta. An administrative charge was also made in the Dowlaishwaram workshops, which will in future be supervised by a fully qualified mechanical engineer. In the Vizagapatam agency, a new division was created consequent upon the transfer of all agency roads from district board charge to that of the Public Works Department. A third deputy sanitary engineer was appointed to the sanitary circle hitherto managed by the Sanitary Engineer himself, thereby freeing that officer for duties of a more general and supervisory character. A senior officer was appointed as Engineer-in-Chief of the Cauvery-Mettur project and a third circle of superintendence, called the Machinery Circle, was created. Considerable progress in this important enterprise was made and some 7,000 workmen were employed thereon at the end of the year. Lastly, the two additional temporary divisions that were created in connection with certain hydro-electric schemes were placed under the

supervision of the expert recently appointed as the Chief Engineer for hydro-electric development.

On the Cauvery, the construction of the new regulator and the new retaining wall between the Grand Anicut and the scouring sluices was completed during the year. The estimate for the construction of a bed regulator across the Cauvery in connection with the Kattalai anicut scheme was completed, but the commencement of work awaits the examination of the scheme as a whole, including the proposed north bank canal. The abandoned Thippayapalaiyam project in the Kurnool district is being re-examined with a view to determine whether its execution cannot be resumed.

The severe cyclone in the Guntūr, Nellore and Cuddapah districts in November caused considerable damage to several buildings and irrigation works, including the Buckingham canal.

Finance

20. The year 1925–26 closed with a surplus of Rs. 98·37 lakhs, the result mainly of the remission of Rs. 126·02 lakhs from the provincial contribution to the Central Government of Rs. 348 lakhs. The closing balance of the revenue account was Rs. 98·49 lakhs.

During the year 1926–27, a further sum of Rs. 56·79 lakhs was remitted from the provincial contribution. After taking this remission into account, the budget estimate for the year anticipated a deficit of Rs. 31·74 lakhs, very liberal provision having been made for schemes of new expenditure which had been held up during the preceding years of financial stress. The year actually closed, however, with a surplus of Rs. 101·59 lakhs. This was mainly the result of

increased receipts under "Excise" and "Land Revenue," and an expenditure under many heads less than that estimated, notably "Civil Works," "Public Health," "Education," "Police" and "General Administration." The closing balance was Rs. 200·08 lakhs.

The budget estimate for 1927–28 as presented to the Legislative Council on 1st March 1927 anticipated a deficit of Rs. 69·33 lakhs, liberal provision again being made for schemes of new expenditure, mainly in the Transferred Departments. The Government of India subsequently remitted, of the balance of Rs. 165·19 lakhs of the provincial contribution, Rs. 116·46 lakhs permanently and Rs. 48·73 lakhs for the year 1927–28 only. The demands as finally passed by the Legislative Council would have resulted in a deficit of Rs. 71·87 lakhs but for this remission. As it is, there will be a surplus of Rs. 93·32 lakhs.

Excise

21. The year is noticeable for the actual constitution of the new excise licensing boards and advisory committees recommended by the Excise Advisory Committee of the Legislative Council and approved by the Government last year. Licensing boards in 15 major municipalities and advisory committees in almost all revenue divisional areas were brought into being, all with non-official majorities.

Certain reductions in the limit of private possession without a licence were ordered during the year. In the case of toddy the limit was reduced from one gallon to one-half gallon in the major portion of the Presidency. The limit for arrack was reduced in the municipalities of four districts and in certain parts of the Agency tracts, while the possession of the ganja, bhang and

opium drugs was still further limited throughout the Agency area.

Two increases in taxation were also ordered during the year. The rate of duty on ganja was raised from Rs. 20 to Rs. 22-8-0 per seer, while the rates of tree-tax were enhanced by 25 per cent in 12 districts and by 20 per cent in 2 districts.

The consumption of foreign liquor increased during the year. The consumption of arrack increased during the first quarter of the financial year but since then has declined. There was an increase under all the important heads of revenue, due mainly to the higher rental amounts realized for the lease 1927-28.

Births and deaths

22. The birth-rate during the year was practically the same as in 1926 (about 36 per mille), while the death-rate slightly decreased (23·8 per mille). The mortality from epidemic diseases was less than in the previous year except in the case of cholera. This disease was virulent in two districts, in one of which (Nellore) it broke out shortly after the cyclone in November.

Public health

23. The Government sanctioned during the year the appointment of health officers in eight municipalities. Thirty-four of the 81 municipalities in the Presidency have now separate health officers. A health staff was also sanctioned for the new district of West Gōdāvari.

The Public Health Department also was further expanded. A project to investigate the prevalence of malaria, first mooted in 1912 but delayed by the war, was consummated by the creation of a special establishment for a period of two years. The hitherto intermittent enquiries will now be systematized, and will be concentrated in selected

and badly affected areas. The investigations in four such areas have already been completed.

Propaganda work in public health and personal hygiene has heretofore been directed by a non-official body, the Madras Health Council. It has been, however, largely dependent on Government support, employing the services of officers of the Public Health Department as well as receiving grants from public funds. Recognising this situation, the Council agreed to dissolve and to hand over its stock of magic lanterns and printed matter to the new propaganda section added to the Public Health Department during the year. A small non-official auxiliary committee was however constituted, in order to keep the Department in touch with non-official opinion and activity.

The geographical survey of cholera was completed during the year. The report, which will be published shortly, deals among other things with the history of the disease in different localities, the area of incidence at the present day, and the factors which contribute to the spread of the epidemic. The information thus scientifically compiled will be of very great value in dealing with future epidemics. On the practical side, experiments were carried out to determine the relative efficacy of two anti-cholera vaccines, one of which is administered by inoculation and the other by the mouth.

A geographical survey of plague was also completed, on lines similar to that of the cholera survey.

Nearly two million people were vaccinated during the year 1926-27. The success rate of 95 per cent shows that the lymph in use is of a very high protective value.

The National Health and Baby Week is steadily growing in popularity and has come to stay as an annual function. The campaign this year was more extensive than in the past. Nearly 30,000 lectures were delivered during the Week, and nearly Rs. 1½ lakhs was collected and spent.

As a result of the investigation and recommendations of the Public Analyst, certain defects in the Madras Prevention of Adulteration Act were cured by an amending bill passed in October.

Medical relief

24. The scheme for the expansion of medical relief in rural tracts, under which the Government have undertaken to subsidize a maximum of three dispensaries in each taluk board area, was further developed during the year by the sanction of 36 new dispensaries. About one-half of all the taluk boards in the Presidency are now maintaining three or more rural dispensaries. With a view further to improve medical aid in the Presidency, the Government have under consideration the question of taking over the administration of 96 medical institutions, a step which will also afford welcome financial relief to the local bodies at present maintaining them.

Development is in progress in the lesser as well as in the larger aspects of medical organization. During the year, facilities for dispensing antirabic treatment were extended to the several mission hospitals and dispensaries throughout the Presidency—bringing, as it were, the all-important vaccine almost to the ryot's door. A large supply of quinine was sanctioned by the Government in order to facilitate the treatment of malaria. Provision was made for the training in "First Aid" of compounders, those already in service as well as those to be recruited in the future.

A system of training was also prescribed for nursing orderlies (formerly called ward attendants), while a scheme for the training of dhais has already been launched. The training of nurses has been revised, the syllabus prescribed by the General Nursing Council of England and Wales having been adopted with modifications suitable to this Presidency. Rules under the Act for the Registration of Nurses and Midwives, passed last year, have been framed, and the full working of the Act awaits only the constitution of the statutory Council. As a result of the recommendations of a committee specially appointed for the purpose, the supply of bedding and linen to Government hospitals has been systematized and the Government have sanctioned an initial expenditure of Rs. 1½ lakhs in order to satisfy the standard of supply adopted. Improved scales of diet were also introduced in all Government hospitals in the mufassal. Dermatological clinics, in charge of sub-assistant surgeons specially trained in dermatology, were opened in certain district headquarter hospitals. An increase of 2½ per cent in the cadre of sub-assistant surgeons was sanctioned by the Government in order to provide a reserve strength for epidemic and festival duties as and when occasion requires.

In addition, two important problems are engaging the attention of the Government. One is that of dealing with venereal disease, and the other, the reorganization of the treatment of mental diseases.

A third problem, that of providing the City of Madras with a hospital that will satisfy all modern medical standards, has been finally solved. After a consideration of the various proposals, some of which involved the construction of a

hospital on a new site, the Government have decided to remodel the existing hospital at a cost of Rs. 40 lakhs. The construction of a new hospital at Madura, to cost nearly Rs. 12 lakhs, was also sanctioned during the year.

The teaching staff in the various institutions was augmented during the year. A lecturer on venereal diseases and lecturers on diseases of the ear, nose and throat and on pharmacology were appointed to the Madras Medical College, additional staff was sanctioned at the Vizagapatam College, and separate cadres of teachers in anatomy and in physiology were constituted.

With the opening of the fifth and final year class at the Medical College, Vizagapatam—now fully affiliated to the Andhra University—the Medical School at Vizagapatam was finally closed. The construction of the buildings for the new Medical School at Guntūr is nearing completion.

A separate hostel for women students of the Medical College, Madras, was opened during the year and an established want thereby satisfied.

A scheme for the recruitment of assistant surgeons, involving a competitive examination, was sanctioned during the year. The scale of pay of officers in the Bacteriological Department was increased, with a view to attract suitable men. Three assistant and three sub-assistant surgeons were deputed for training at the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, and a sub-assistant surgeon to the Pasteur Institute, Coonoor.

Considerable progress was made in the campaign against hookworm during the year. The largest survey by means of egg-counts that has yet been made in any part of the world was completed. It shows that the intensity of infection is greater in the Northern Circars, on the West Coast and in

the districts of Nellore, Chingleput, South Arcot and Tanjore, than elsewhere in the Presidency. In the Ceded Districts, where the comparatively dry climatic conditions prevent the development of the larvae, the degree of infection is negligible. It has been established that the efficacious control of this and other bowel diseases depends upon the prevention of soil pollution, and this, together with the systematic treatment of infected persons, is now the aim of the authorities concerned.

The Indian School of Medicine also shared in the year's development. The staff was augmented and its pay increased, and sanction was accorded for the construction of additional buildings.

Education

25. The most important educational feature of the year was the progress made in pursuing the Government's policy for the expansion of elementary education. Sanction was accorded for the opening, in all, of 1,554 schools. These included 409 board elementary schools, opened in centres with a population of 500 and above heretofore without schools; 145 elementary schools, under private management but aided by public funds; 500 aided board elementary schools for girls, female education thus sharing in the general progress; and 500 elementary schools under the management of village panchayats—a development of the new agency in the sphere of elementary education created in the previous year.

Further progress was made during the year in the introduction of compulsory medical inspection. Having been definitely established last year in all Government secondary schools and the school departments of Government colleges, it was made, during the year under report, a condition of recognition in the case of non-Government

secondary schools for boys, including European high and middle schools.

Compulsory education continues to be viewed with trepidation by most local bodies, the financial difficulties doubtless being emphasized by considerations of popularity. Although it was introduced in two municipalities during the year (and also in the area under the jurisdiction of two village panchayats) not more than one-third of the eighty-one municipalities in the Presidency have yet adopted it.

Increased facilities for the training of women teachers were afforded during the year by the opening of two secondary training classes and a higher elementary training school. The general question of female education was discussed at a conference of women officers of the Indian and Madras Educational Services. The recommendations of the conference were under consideration at the close of the year.

The question of adult education was also investigated during the year. Future development in this respect was foreshadowed by the opening of two night schools for adults as adjuncts to existing training institutions.

The code of regulations for European schools, which was remodelled last year, was in process of further revision during the year under report, as also the regulations and syllabi of the European school examinations.

Measures were taken to make the Government Muhammadan College, Madras, a complete college unit, additional classes being opened in order to permit students to graduate from the college itself instead of completing the course at other colleges.

PART II

THE REPORT

CHAPTER I

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

PHYSICAL

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE AND CHIEF STAPLES

1. *Vide* pages 1 to 11 of the Report on the administration of the Madras Presidency for the year 1921–22.

POLITICAL

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

2. *Vide* pages 12 to 40 of the Report on the administration of the Madras Presidency for the year 1921–22.

FORM OF ADMINISTRATION

3. *Vide* pages 41 to 63 of the Report on the administration of the Madras Presidency for the year 1921–22 and pages 1 to 2 of the Report for the year 1925–26.

CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES

4. *Vide* pages 64 to 70 of the Report on the administration of the Madras Presidency for the year 1921-22.

SYSTEM OF SURVEY

5. *Vide* pages 71 to 83 of the Report on the administration of the Madras Presidency for the year 1921-22.

SYSTEM OF SETTLEMENTS

6. *Vide* pages 84 to 99 of the Report on the administration of the Madras Presidency for the year 1921-22.

CIVIL DIVISIONS OF THE BRITISH TERRITORY

7. *Vide* pages 100 to 116 of the Report on the administration of the Madras Presidency for the year 1921-22 and page 3 of the Report for the year 1925-26.

DETAILS OF THE CENSUS OF 1921—TRIBES AND LANGUAGES

8. *Vide* pages 117 to 120 of the Report on the administration of the Madras Presidency for the year 1921-22.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION (1926-27)

9. His Excellency the Right Hon'ble George Joachim Goschen, Viscount Goschen of Hawkhurst, G.C.I.E., C.B.E., V.D., continued to hold office throughout the year. The Hon'ble Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, K.C.I.E., proceeded on special duty as Substitute Delegate to the Assembly of the League of Nations on the afternoon of 7th August 1926 and

resumed his office on the forenoon of 10th October 1926. During this period the Hon'ble Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., acted as Vice-President of the Executive Council and Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell, C.S.I., C.I.E., C.B.E., V.D., I.C.S., as Member of Council. There was no other change in the Executive Council.

After the general elections of 1926, the Ministers then in office resigned their seats with effect from the afternoon of 3rd December 1926. A Gazette Extraordinary was issued on the same day announcing the appointment of M.R.Ry. Paramasiva Subbarayan Avargal, Bar.-at-Law, LL.D., B.C.L., M.R.Ry. Arcot Ranganatha Mudaliyar Avargal, B.A., B.L., and M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur Rayapuram Nallaviran Arogyaswami Mudaliyar Avargal, B.A., B.C.E., as Ministers from the forenoon of Saturday the 4th December 1926.

His Excellency the Governor's Tours

10. During the year 1926-27, His Excellency the Right Hon'ble the Viscount Goschen, G.C.I.E., C.B.E., V.D., Governor of Madras, made the following tours :—

On the 28th May 1926 His Excellency motored from Ootacamund to Tiruppūr where he received an address from the Municipal Council and opened the Cattle Show and Agricultural Exhibition.

On the 30th June 1926 His Excellency visited Coimbatore, where he received addresses from the Municipal Council and the District Board and on the next day inspected the Central Jail and presided at the distribution of prizes at the Forest College.

En route to Madras in connection with the Legislative Council meeting in July, His Excellency opened the Kallar Bridge and the new buildings of the Agricultural College at Coimbatore on the 9th. On the 18th of July, His Excellency left Madras for a tour in the Madura and Rāmnād districts. He halted at Tanjore to open the Central Banking Union, the Hood Co-operative Institute and the Eye hospital attached to the Tanjore headquarter

Madura and Rāmnād districts

hospital. At Madura, His Excellency received addresses from the Madura Municipal Council, the Madura and Rāmnād District Boards and the Virudunagar Municipal Council, opened the new Y.M.C.A. building, laid the foundation stone of the Church of Sweden Mission Hostel and cut the first sod of the Madura-Bōdināyakkanūr Railway. From Madura, His Excellency motored to Usilampatti in Kallarnād, where he saw the work connected with the reclamation of the Kallars. Brief halts were made at Mandapam, where His Excellency saw the Ceylon Government Emigration Camp, and at Rāmēsvaram, Dhanushkodi and Rāmnād. The last place visited was Kodaikānal where he received an address from the Municipal Council. His Excellency returned to Ootacamund on the 27th July.

Bezwada

On the 30th August, His Excellency visited Bezwada to inaugurate the Āndhra University. He received addresses from the Bezwada Municipal Council and the Kistna District Board and also opened the Bezwada Spinning and Weaving Mills.

Madras

His Excellency went to Madras from Ootacamund on the 22nd September in connection with the visit of the South African Delegation and returned to Ootacamund on the 25th September.

On his way to Madras in October His Excellency halted at Coimbatore on the 12th to visit the Y.M.C.A. Rural Reconstruction Centre and the Sugarcane Factory of the Pallapālaiyam Co-operative Agricultural and Industrial Society.

Chidambaram

On the 15th October, His Excellency paid a visit to Chidambaram to open the new science block of the Sri Minakshi College established by the Hon'ble Sir S. R. M. Annamalai Chettiyar, and while there received addresses from the Municipal Council and the South Arcot Ādi-Drāvida Jana Sabha. From Chidambaram His Excellency proceeded to Trichinopoly, where he presided at the centenary celebrations of the death of Bishop Heber and the prize distribution at the Bishop Heber College.

His Excellency accompanied by Viscountess Goschen left Madras on the 2nd February 1927 for Shoranur, where he opened the Shoranur-Nilambur

Railway on the 3rd, and then proceeded to Nilambur, where he stayed for a day. Salem was next visited and addresses from the Municipal Council and the District Board were presented to His Excellency. He took the opportunity of this visit to open the new office buildings of the District Board and to lay the foundation stone of the Salem Taluk Board's office building. After paying a brief visit to Yercaud he proceeded to Mettur to see the progress made in connection with the irrigation project. His Excellency returned to Madras on the 8th February. Salem

On the 7th March, His Excellency visited Tanjore, where he received addresses from the Municipal Council and the District Board and opened the new office buildings of the District Board. From Tanjore His Excellency proceeded to Trichinopoly, where he made a tour of the South Indian Railway colony at Golden Rock. Tanjore and Trichinopoly

His Excellency with Viscountess Goschen paid a visit to certain parts of the Chingleput district on the 9th March with a view to acquainting himself with the cultivation and crop prospects. He drove through Chingleput, Pālūr, Walajabad, Tennēri and Srīperumbūdūr, stopping on the way and making inquiries of agriculturists regarding seasonal conditions, harvest prospects, condition of cattle and fodder supply. Chingleput district

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CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

(FASLI 1336—1ST JULY 1926 TO 30TH JUNE 1927)

[*Season and Crop Report for fasli 1336; Statistical Abstract for British India—Prices and Wages in India*]

11. Stocks of food-grains were generally sufficient, the shortage in some of the districts having been made up by imports from outside. Stocks

The prices of the principal food-grains were at first lower than in the corresponding period of the previous fasli. From September, however, prices began to rise gradually in the northern half of the Presidency, first for ragi and then for dry Price of food-grains, imports and exports

grains. From February, prices of food-grains were generally higher. Prices of articles of import declined in all cases except kerosene oil. Prices of articles of export increased in the case of skins, oil-cakes, gingelly, unrefined sugar and tea and decreased in other cases.

Wages

Wages continued to be high in most places. The money market was tight during the year.

Condition of the ryot

The ryot in the Circars and Chittoor was fairly prosperous. The West Coast ryot did well by reason of a tolerably good paddy crop, a favourable coconut season, and the high yield and price of pepper; catches of fish were, however, smaller. The condition of the ryot was not generally satisfactory in the Deccan, where he was threatened with famine, and in the big cotton tracts, where he suffered both from the reduced yield and from falling prices. The indebtedness of the Deccan ryot appeared to be on the increase and in some cases land had to be sold to the money-lender or to a non-cultivator.

The insufficiency and high cost of manures continues to be a serious handicap to a general improvement in the yield of crops and therefore to an improvement in the economic condition of the ryot.

Political Pensions (1926-27)

12. The political pensions in force on 1st April 1926 amounted to Rs. 2,45,600-4-0 and were distributed among 434 persons. During the year under report pensions amounting to Rs. 4,581-13-0 were newly sanctioned and pensions amounting to Rs. 16,795-13-0 lapsed. Sixteen persons died during the year, the pensions of 15 persons were commuted, one pension was transferred to another province and 22 new pensioners were added to the list. The pensions on 1st April 1927 amounted to Rs. 2,33,386-4-0 and were distributed among 424 pensioners. The payments made to the Carnatic stipendiaries and the Tanjore family amounted to Rs. 1,92,931-10-10 and Rs. 27,531-12-0 respectively. The above amounts include Rs. 16,114-9-0 on account of commutations of Carnatic pensions.

CHAPTER II

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

SOURCES AND REALIZATION OF LAND REVENUE

(FASLI 1335—1ST JULY 1925 TO 30TH JUNE 1926)

[*Report on the settlement of Land Revenue for fasli 1335; Statistical Abstract for British India—Land Revenue*]

Sources of land revenue

13. The land revenue of the Presidency is derived from the undermentioned sources:—

(*a*) peshkash or revenue from permanently settled estates,

(*b*) shrotriyam jodi or quit-rent levied on inam villages,

(*c*) assessment including water-rate on lands held under the ryotwari system,

(*d*) miscellaneous revenue, and

(*e*) proprietary estates village service.

The demand payable under these various sources for this fasli and for the preceding fasli is shown below :—

—	Fasli 1334.	Fasli 1335.	Increase or decrease.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Peshkash	49,93,967	49,92,878	— 1,089
Cesses	20,87,861	20,85,549	— 2,312
Quit-rent	7,56,585	7,57,045	+ 460
Cesses	5,45,036	5,71,858	+ 26,822
Ryotwari and miscellaneous.	6,82,12,576	6,85,20,828	+3,08,252
Cesses	67,32,004	70,33,120	+2,01,116
Proprietary Estates Village Service	6,31,849	6,03,914	— 27,935
Total ...	8,39,59,878	8,45,65,192	+5,05,314

14. Of the total current demand under land revenue and cesses for the fasli of Rs. 8,45,65,192, a sum of Rs. 8,31,96,600 or 98·38 per cent was collected within the fasli and Rs. 20,861 were written off the accounts. The percentage during the previous fasli was 97·47. The total arrear demand under all heads amounted to Rs. 25,91,300, of which Rs. 23,86,780 or 92·11 per cent was collected and Rs. 98,834 written off the accounts. The percentage during the previous fasli was 80·15. The balance outstanding at the end of the fasli including both arrears and current was Rs. 14,58,417 as compared with Rs. 25,91,376 at the end of the previous fasli.

Coercive processes

15. The various coercive processes issued during the fasli as compared with the previous fasli are tabulated below:—

Coercive processes.	Fasli 1334.	Fasli 1335.
Demand notices	740,795	732,621
Distraint or attachment notices.	95,118	94,211
Sale notices	84,456	76,194
Sales (number of defaulters) ...	7,912	6,330
Total ...	928,281	909,356

The general decrease in the number of demand notices appears to have been due to a stricter observance of the rule that these notices should be issued only when absolutely necessary; on the other hand, there was a slight increase in 15 out of the 26 districts, due perhaps to closer attention being paid to the prompt realization of Government dues. Of the 94,211 defaulters whose property was attached, 19·13 per cent paid the arrears before sale notices were issued as compared with 11·12 per cent in the previous fasli. The number was the largest in the Tanjore district, where a certain reluctance on the part of ryots to pay promptly was noticeable. The number of defaulters whose property was sold was considerably less than in the previous fasli, the

decrease being common to sales of both real and personal property. Immovable property to the value of Rs. 4,31,680 was sold for the recovery of arrears amounting to Rs. 1,22,732 and the amount realized was Rs. 1,08,664. The price realized on land sold to private individuals amounted on the average to five times the assessment in the case of dry lands and to six times the assessment in the case of wet lands. The extent of land sold was 9,012 acres of dry land and 1,807 acres of wet land. The total area of land bought in by Government for want of bidders was 10,473 acres of dry land and 571 acres of wet land.

Charges

16. The total cost of the establishment responsible for the collection of the land revenue was Rs. 2·21 crores; of this the cost of village establishments amounted to Rs. 1·2 crores while that of district establishments, including the salaries and allowances of revenue inspectors, amounted to Rs. 1 crore. The greater part of the cost of this establishment, however, is now debited to the head of "General Administration" instead of, as formerly, to that of "Land Revenue"—a recognition of the fact that it performs multifarious duties among which the administration of the land is only one. It is therefore impossible to calculate with exactitude the actual cost of collecting the land revenue.

Ryotwari holdings

The total area of ryotwari holdings during the year was 26·71 million acres, exceeding that of the previous year (as now revised) by 125,195 acres. The increase was contributed by all districts except Gōdāvari East and the Nilgiris, each of which showed a slight decrease. The marked increase of 20,449 acres in Kurnool, which also contributed a marked increase in the previous year, was due to the growing demand for land for the cultivation of groundnut, a profitable crop. The increases of 13,521 acres in Bellary, of 13,468 acres in Anantapur and of 13,365 acres in North Arcot were also considerable and were due to assignments made to the depressed classes and to ex-army men in addition to the usual assignments in accordance with the ordinary rules.

AD-MINIS-TRATION OF THE LAND

Assess-ment

The total assessment on holdings was Rs. 564·22 lakhs as against Rs. 561·39 lakhs in the previous year (as now revised). The increase of Rs. 2,75,399 was contributed by all districts except Gōdāvari West where there was a slight decrease. The marked increase of Rs. 1,58,885 in the Trichinopoly district was due chiefly to the introduction of resettlement rates in certain tracts of the district.

Culti-vation

The total area cultivated in ryotwari holdings during the year was 20·33 million acres as compared with 20·10 million acres in the previous fasli. The area under dry cultivation (15,437,277 acres) showed an increase of 181,222 acres and that under wet cultivation (4,893,598 acres) an increase of 51,548 acres. The increase under dry was marked in Anantapur, North Arcot and Bellary and that under wet in Tanjore. Including the area under miscellaneous cultivation, the total area cultivated was 21·44 million acres as against 21·10 million acres in the previous fasli.

Water-rate and second-crop charges

The revenue derived from water-rate and charges for second crop amounted to Rs. 36·40 lakhs as compared with Rs. 30·33 lakhs in the previous year. An increase occurred in most districts and was particularly large in Nellore, South Arcot, Chingleput and North Arcot, owing to good rains and a favourable season.

Remis-sions

The total amount remitted during the fasli was Rs. 21,12,472 as compared with Rs. 27,71,096 in the previous fasli. The marked decrease of Rs. 6,58,624 was confined to "seasonal remissions," there being slight increases under "fixed remissions" and under "beriz deductions." The decrease under "seasonal remissions" was due to a more favourable season, common to most districts and particularly marked in Tanjore.

Miscella-neous revenue

Miscellaneous revenue amounted to Rs. 105·71 lakhs as compared with Rs. 118·12 lakhs in the previous year, the net decrease being Rs. 12,40,902. This decrease was largely confined to the districts of West Gōdāvari and Kistna and in those districts marks a return to normal, large amounts having been collected in the previous fasli as ayacut inclusion fees. Enhanced charges for the

occupation of poramboke lands amounting to Rs. 3,29,590 were levied on 30,824 acres

17. Transfers of revenue registry fall under the following two main heads:— Transfers of registry

(1) applications and notices received from sub-registrars;

(2) applications and intimations received from parties, village officers and others.

Under the first head 328,147 applications were received during the fasli as compared with 345,402 in the previous fasli, the decrease being 17,255 or about 5 per cent. The bulk of the decrease occurred in the districts of Gōdāvari East and West, Kistna, Guntūr, Cuddapah, Kurnool, North Arcot, South Arcot, Rāmnād and Tinnevelly; the first three districts are being resettled. Under the second head the number received was 97,127 as against 94,126 in the previous fasli, the increase being 3,001 or 3·19 per cent. The total number of applications of all kinds to be dealt with in the fasli, including the number pending disposal at its beginning, was 522,788. Of these, 443,714 were disposed of during the fasli, leaving a balance of 79,074 as compared with 98,029 in the previous fasli.

18. The advances made under the Land Improvement Loans Act during the year amounted to Rs. 11·31 lakhs and those under the Agriculturists' Loans Act to Rs. 9·96 lakhs, a total of Rs. 21·27 lakhs as against Rs. 37·20 lakhs in the previous fasli. The difference was the net result of an increase in the amounts advanced in five districts and a decrease in twenty districts. There were no transactions in Madras during the fasli. The advances granted in Kistna and Coimbatore showed a considerable increase over those of fasli 1334, due in Kistna to the grant of loans on a liberal scale to repair the ravages of a cyclone and in Coimbatore to the bad season. The decrease in Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Malabar and South Kanara represents a return to normal, large amounts having been disbursed in previous years on account of floods. The decrease in Ganjām, Vizagapatam, Bellary, Anantapur, Chingleput, Loans and advances

North Arcot and Chittoor was the result of a more favourable season. The aggregate amount of principal and interest repayable during the fasli under both the Acts, including the balance remaining unpaid out of sums which were due in previous years, was Rs. 37,34,001, of which a sum of Rs. 8,57,799 or 22·9 per cent was collected without resort to coercion and a sum of Rs. 14,38,431 or 38 per cent after the issue of demand notices. These figures show an improvement in collection, the respective percentages for the previous fasli being 16·3 and 33·3.

Wells

Seven hundred and fifty-five wells were newly constructed and 1,443 were repaired with the aid of loans granted under the Land Improvement Loans Act.

SURVEYS

[*Report on the administration of the Survey Department for the official year 1926–27*]

Parties

19. Six parties were at work during the year and, as usual, were principally engaged in the cadastral resurvey of ryotwari areas.

Operations

20. The total outturn of the survey parties under cadastral resurvey of ryotwari areas was 1,688 square miles. The decrease of 200 square miles as compared with last year's outturn is considerable and is said to be due to a temporary reduction of establishment following a cut in the budget allotment. In addition, an area of 169 square miles of canal irrigated land in proprietary estates in the districts of East and West Gōdāvari and Kistna was surveyed during the year. Small extents of proprietary areas in certain districts amounting to 12 square miles were also surveyed. The only special work of the year was the survey of 97 linear miles of road in the Chingleput district, 2 miles of streets in the Kamply Union in the Bellary district and 25 miles of boundaries of coffee estates in the Salem district.

SETTLEMENTS

[Report on the administration of the Settlement Department for the year 1926-27]

Parties

21. There were four settlement parties at work during the year—Party No. I in the East Gōdāvari and West Gōdāvari districts, Party No. II in the Kistna district, Party No. III in the Bellary, Anantapur and Salem districts and Party No. IV in the Trichinopoly, Madura, Rāmnād, South Kanara, Malabar and the Nilgiri districts. Parties Nos. I and II were also engaged in the remaining work connected with the resettlement of the Tanjore and South Arcot districts.

In most of the taluks detailed below, the work of resettlement was carried out in accordance with the simplified procedure tentatively ordered by the Government in 1925. The old system was, however, continued in those taluks of the West Gōdāvari and Kistna districts in which the work of resettlement was begun before the introduction of the new system. The new and simplified procedure has proved successful in saving both time and money and the Government have now directed that it should be followed generally in future.

Operations

22. Details of the principal settlement operations of the year are given below :—

In the East Gōdāvari district, changes in registry ordered by the district staff following resurvey were completed in the Razole taluk. The issue of rough pattas and the hearing of objections were practically completed in the Amalapuram and Rāmachandrapuram taluks and field inspection was begun. In the Cocanada taluk, the preparation of accounts preliminary to the issue of rough pattas was in progress. The survey of lands in which the Government have an interest in the non-Government villages of the district continued.

In the West Gōdāvari district, resettlement work in the Narasapur and Tanuku taluks proceeded under the old system and in most of the villages of the Bhīmavaram taluk under the simplified system. In the Bhīmavaram taluk, objections to

rough pattas were heard and the subsequent field inspection completed, while in the Narasapur and Tanuku taluks the fair accounts based on resurvey were handed over to the district staff In the Ellore taluk, an experiment was begun with a view to deciding whether resurvey is a necessary preliminary to resettlement. The survey of lands in which the Government have an interest in the non-Government villages of the district continued and was completed in the Narsapur taluk.

In the Kistna district, work in the Bandar and Divi taluks, under the old system, proceeded as far as the completion of field inspection and the delivery to the district staff of fair accounts based on resurvey. The simplified procedure was followed in the Gudivāda, Kaikalūr and Bezwada taluks. The issue of rough pattas and the hearing of objections were completed in the Gudivāda taluk and were in progress in the Kaikalūr taluk. Work in the Bezwada taluk was in the preliminary stages. Substantial progress was made in the survey of lands in which the Government have an interest in the non-Government villages of the district.

In the Bellary district, resettlement registers embodying the revised rates were sent to the press for the remaining 285 villages of the black soil taluks and for 437 villages of the five red soil taluks.

In the Anantapur district, the orders of Government on the scheme report for the resettlement of the red soil taluks were issued during the year. The correction of accounts with reference to these orders was carried out and fair accounts for 246 villages were delivered to the district staff. The balance of work in connection with the revision of adangals in the Hindupuram and Dharmavaram taluks was almost completed.

In the Salem district, resettlement work in the Attūr taluk proceeded under the simplified procedure. Rough pattas were issued, objections heard and field inspection carried out in a number of villages.

In the South Arcot district, the issue of rough pattas for lands in which the Government have an interest was completed in all the remaining villages except one.

In the Tanjore district, diglott registers for the remaining five Government villages and two whole inam villages were despatched to the press. The settlement of the lands in which the Government have an interest was completed in 10 out of the 11 non-Government villages.

In the Trichinopoly district, a report on the introduction of the resettlement rates was received and the orders of Government passed thereon during the year. The resettlement registers for 288 villages were sent to the press. The survey of the lands in which the Government have an interest in non-Government villages proceeded and final check of the survey records was completed for 208 villages.

Orders were issued by the Government during the year on the scheme report received last year for the resettlement of the Nilgiri and the Malabar Wynaads. Rough pattas were issued and objections were heard in most of the villages in the tract.

Resettlement work proceeded under the simplified system in the Kasaragod taluk of the South Kanara district and in the Ernād and Walluvanād taluks of the Malabar district, rough pattas being issued in a number of villages.

Printing of resettlement registers

The printing of resettlement registers was transferred from the Government Press to private presses during the year.

Revenue Records and Registration

[*Report of the Board of Revenue for the year 1926-27*]

23. The inspecting tahsildars appointed last year with a view to ensure the better maintenance of revenue records worked throughout the year. It is already plain that the closer supervision and

technical scrutiny exercised by these special officers has resulted in a distinct and also timely improvement in the quality of the work of revenue subordinates.

Training

24. Schools for the training of revenue subordinates in survey were held in 14 districts. Schools for the training of karnams in survey were held in all districts except Rāmnād and the Nilgiris, the training being conducted by competent revenue inspectors under the supervision of the inspecting tahsildars. A school was also held in the Chingleput district for the training of candidates for the posts of inspecting tahsildars.

Maintenance

25. Regular maintenance was in progress throughout the Presidency except in the Kistna district and certain parts of a few other districts.

Subdivisions

The number of subdivisions sanctioned during the year was 103,588, a slightly lesser number than was sanctioned during the previous year. 61,454 subdivisions were effected on the applications of ryots, a total of Rs. 98,152 was collected on account of subdivision fees and a sum of Rs. 27,937 was paid to village karnams as remuneration for the work of subdivision. Ryots' applications showed a decrease of 8 per cent as compared with the previous year.

Survey marks

The number of stones discovered to require renewal or repair was again greater than in the previous year. There was a further falling off in the number of repairs and renewals effected by the ryots themselves, a decrease which has been continuous for the last four years. It is reported that ryots take very little interest in stone maintenance and that the abolition of the land records fee and the apportionment of charges between adjacent pattadars have contributed to their indifference.

Special operations

Scattered surveys were done in various districts by special revenue subordinates under the supervision of the inspecting tahsildars.

Great trigonometrical stations

26. The condition of the great trigonometrical stations and bench marks was generally satisfactory and suitable action was taken in respect of those found to be in need of repairs.

WASTE LANDS

(FASLI 1336—1ST JULY 1926 TO 30TH JUNE 1927)

[*Season and Crop Report for the year 1926-27*]

27. The total area of the Presidency for which details were available was 90·577 million acres, of which a net extent of 33·263 million acres was under cultivation as against 33·837 million acres in the preceding fasli. The area classed as forest fell from 13·159 million acres to 13·074 million acres, while 20·149 million acres (or 0·968 million acres less than in the previous fasli) were not available for cultivation. Of the remainder, 10·874 million acres were fallow and 13·217 million acres formed cultivable waste other than fallow, as against 10·144 million acres and 12·349 million acres, respectively, in the previous fasli.

NOTE.—The figures reported for the previous fasli are revised figures.

GOVERNMENT ESTATES

28. There is nothing to record under this head for the Presidency.

WARDS' ESTATES

(FASLI 1335—1ST JULY 1925 TO 30TH JUNE 1926)

[*Report on the administration of the estates under the Court of Wards in the Madras Presidency for fasli 1335 (1925-26)*]

Estates under management

29. Nineteen estates were under the Court's superintendence at the end of fasli 1334. The Talaivankōttai and Kadavūr estates were handed over to the proprietors on 30th March 1926 and 1st July 1926 respectively. Two estates, Poravipālaiyam and Kurupam, were taken under management on 28th May 1926 and 25th June 1926 and the partible properties of the Kurupam ward

and his minor brother were brought under supervision in November 1926. Thus the number of estates under the Court's management at the end of fasli 1335, including Ūttumalai still under formal superintendence, was 19.

Estates handed over

The Talaivankōttai estate was under the Court's management for about eight years. During this period rents in kind were commuted into cash rents, debts amounting to Rs. 4,790 due to the estate were recovered and a sum of Rs. 64,138 was spent on maramat works. The ward was married in 1924. He showed a real interest in estate affairs during his practical training in estate administration. The condition of the tenants improved considerably after the introduction of cash rents and the improvement of irrigation works.

The Kadavūr estate was under the Court's management for about fifteen years. During the period of management the land revenue demand rose from Rs. 59,488 to Rs. 76,413, debts to the amount of Rs. 9,501 were recovered and debts amounting to Rs. 4,37,181 were repaid. A sum of Rs. 69,714 was spent on maramat works and an amount of Rs. 9,031 was handed over to the proprietor after reserving a sufficient amount for post-rendition charges. The ward was married during the period of the Court's management and was given practical training in the details of administration.

Cultivation and holdings

The total extent cultivated in the fasli was 72·59 per cent of the total holdings of 597,317 acres, as compared with 79·2 per cent of 568,978 acres in the previous fasli. The percentage fell below 75 in six estates and in five of them was due to the unfavourable season and to want of timely rains.

Finance

Demand, collection and balance

30. The gross current demand of all the estates amounted to Rs. 28·85 lakhs and the net demand to Rs. 26·90 lakhs, remissions being Rs. 1·95 lakhs. There was a net increase of Rs. 45,835 in the demand as compared with that of the previous fasli which was the result of increases (Rs. 0·68 lakh) in ten estates and decreases (Rs. 0·22 lakh) in seven others. The increase in Bodokimidi (Rs. 13,926), Madugula (Rs. 12,328) and Sivaganga (Rs. 29,246) and the decrease in Kadavūr (Rs. 12,978) were

appreciable, while the differences in other estates were small. Of the current demand of Rs. 26·90 lakhs, Rs. 20·23 lakhs was collected and Rs. 0·04 lakh written off during the fasli, leaving a balance of Rs. 6·63 lakhs at its close. Excluding subsequent collections, remissions, and amounts which the Estate Collectors recommended for remission after the close of the fasli, the net recoverable balance on 1st October 1926 amounted to Rs. 6·26 lakhs or 23·2 per cent of the demand. The balance was 1 per cent and less in three estates and less than 5 per cent in four estates, while in four others it exceeded 25 per cent. The high balance in Madukkūr (52 per cent) was due to a succession of adverse seasons and to general poverty and indebtedness among the ryots, while that in Sivaganga (32·9 per cent) was due to a third successive bad season. The arrear demand at the beginning of the fasli amounted to Rs. 12·57 lakhs, of which Rs. 7·36 lakhs were outstanding at its close. The balances were below Rs. 1,000 in four estates, below Rs. 5,000 in three and below Rs. 10,000 in two others. They exceeded Rs. 10,000 in six estates, where due steps were taken for their recovery. The aggregate revised cash balance at the beginning of the fasli was Rs. 5·92 lakhs. The total cash receipts during the fasli amounted to Rs. 33·91 lakhs. The total cash assets of the fasli were thus Rs. 39·83 lakhs. Deducting from this the total expenditure, amounting to Rs. 36 lakhs, the cash balance at the close of the fasli was Rs. 3·83 lakhs. Including Government promissory notes and other securities of the total value of Rs. 5·45 lakhs held on behalf of some of the estates, and the estimated value of grain in hand at the end of the fasli of Rs. 1·94 lakhs, the closing balance at the credit of the estates was Rs. 11·22 lakhs. The ordinary receipts and charges of the fasli were Rs. 24·16 lakhs and Rs. 24·18 lakhs respectively. In Sivaganga the ordinary charges exceeded the ordinary receipts by Rs. 1,64,877 and steps to reduce expenditure have been engaging the attention of the Court. Four estates—Bodokimidi, Jeypore Kumārikā's estate, South Vallūru, Part I, and Sivaganga—had

surplus balances exceeding a läkh of rupees at the end of the fasli. Where these balances were not required for specific purposes, as for survey in the case of Bodokimidi estate, they were invested in Government securities.

Agricultural improvements

The two agricultural farms attached to the Devaswam section of the Zamorin's estate continued to work during the fasli and showed better results in the yield of the several crops. An experiment with a tapioca crop proved successful. The Pokunnu farm is becoming self-supporting. The combined agricultural and dairy farm attached to the Guruvayur Devaswam continued to work satisfactorily under the supervision of a trained agriculturist. Demonstrations of methods of circumventing the commoner pests were given to the neighbouring ryots. The demonstration plot in Bodokimidi continued to work and displayed with some success a new method of artificial manuring. A previous unsuccessful attempt to raise a sugarcane crop was repeated during the fasli, this time with success.

Establishment charges

The average percentage of establishment charges and Government commission to normal receipts was 17·78 as against 19·7 in fasli 1334. The maximum prescribed limit (20 per cent in surveyed estates and 25 per cent in other estates) was exceeded in five estates. Appreciable changes occurred in two estates ; in Madukkur the percentage fell from 35·3 to 23·5 owing to an increase in receipts during the fasli, while in Sivaganga the percentage rose from 21·4 to 30·3 by reason of a decrease in receipts following a bad season.

Maramat works

31. The Court continued to pay special attention to the improvement of irrigation works. Programmes of work were framed and followed as far as possible, but in Sivaganga certain retrenchments had to be effected and work temporarily stopped owing to the bad season and financial stress. Including the trust institutions, the total maramat allotment in all the estates was Rs. 5·34 lakhs The value of work done and the work paid for amounted to Rs. 4·40 lakhs and 4·38 lakhs, or 82·4 per cent and 82·0 per cent, respectively, of the

allotment. The maramat expenditure of Rs. 4·38 lakhs was 14·54 per cent of the total ordinary charges (Rs. 30·12 lakhs) including those of trust institutions.

Debts

Debts due to the estates

32. The debts due to the several estates at the beginning of the fasli amounted to Rs. 11·63 lakhs. Including loans granted (Rs. 0·14 lakh), debts brought to account (Rs. 0·01 lakh) and interest and costs that accrued during the fasli (Rs. 0·38 lakh), the aggregate amount due was Rs. 12·16 lakhs. Of this, Rs. 0·75 lakh was collected and Rs. 0·11 lakh written off, leaving a balance of Rs. 11·30 lakhs at the close of the fasli. The outstanding balance continued to be large in Bodokimidi, Jeypore Kumarika's estate and South Vallūru, Part I.

Debts due by the estates

The liabilities of the several estates at the beginning of the fasli amounted to Rs. 20·33 lakhs. Including the debts contracted (Rs. 0·20 lakh), those brought to account (Rs. 2·83 lakhs) and the interest and costs that accrued during the year (Rs. 3·80 lakhs), the total liabilities amounted to Rs. 27·16 lakhs. Of this, Rs. 5·04 lakhs were paid off and Rs. 0·04 lakh struck off, leaving a balance of Rs. 22·08 lakhs at the end of the fasli. The outstanding debts exceeded Rs. 50,000 in seven estates.

Encumbered estates

The provisions of section 45 of the Court of Wards Act continued to be in force during the fasli in the estates of South Vallūru Part I, Arni, Bagalur, Shulagiri and Kadavur. The total debts inclusive of interest payable by the South Vallūru estate, Part I, amounted to Rs. 7·12 lakhs. A sum of Rs. 1·30 lakhs has been invested with the Imperial Bank of India and will be utilized for the liquidation of these debts. The outstanding liabilities of the Arni estate amounted to Rs. 3,82,294, of which Rs. 43,992 was repaid; it is hoped that a larger surplus will be available for repayment in fasli 1336. In the Bagalūr estate the total debts amounted to Rs. 40,096, of which a sum of Rs. 6,360 was paid during the fasli. Against the Shulagiri estate the only outstanding claim amounted to Rs. 12,903, due to the Sivagiri estate on the security of the life

AD-MINIS-TRATION OF THE LAND

insurance policy of the late poligar. The Kadavur estate was handed over to the proprietor free from debt.

Education of wards

33. As in previous years most of the wards attended local schools and colleges. The health and conduct of the wards were generally satisfactory and, with two exceptions, so also was their educational progress.

Suits

Seven appeals were pending at the end of the fasli, one before the Privy Council and six before the High Court of Madras. Two appeals were dismissed by the High Court during the fasli and it has been considered unnecessary to pursue either matter further.

Institutions attached to estates

34. The administration of religious and charitable institutions was satisfactory and their financial condition generally sound. The Government have held that all temples under the Court of Wards are within the jurisdiction of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board, subject to certain concessions and reservations.

Religious and charitable

Educational

The second-grade college maintained by the Zamorin's estate continued to work satisfactorily. The strength of the institution has steadily increased and there were 716 students during the year under report. The results at the public examinations were not unsatisfactory but there is said to be room for improvement. In addition to 8 annual ordinary scholarships, the management granted 4 special scholarships during the year besides making concessional grants to 17 pupils belonging to the depressed classes and to 3 sons of ex-service men, while 9 students received scholarships from the Government. Twenty-eight members of the Zamorin's family received free instruction. In Sivaganga the Raja's High School and the Alice Miller Girls' School continued under the supervision of the Raja subject to the Estate Collector's general control and met with the District Educational Officer's approval at the time of his inspection. One middle school and two elementary schools (one for boys and the other for girls) were maintained in the Bodokimidi estate and worked satisfactorily during the year.

Field survey work

35. The completion of survey has been notified for 243 out of 389 villages in the Sivaganga estate. Commutation was introduced during the fasli in the taluks of Sholapuram, Tirukoshtiyur and Sakkai. In the Rāmapatnam estate, the Manager's final check of the survey records was completed. The Government have sanctioned the survey of the Bodokimidi estate. In the South Vallūru, Part I, estate the entertainment of a special staff sanctioned by the Government for bringing maintenance work up to date had to be deferred owing to a shortage of trained revenue inspectors.

Estate forests

36. The forests in Sivaganga, Arni, Madugula, Kadavūr and Shūlagiri were worked under the rules sanctioned by the Government under sections 26 and 32 of the Madras Forest Act. In Sivaganga the forest administration continued to be supervised by the Raja subject to the Estate Collector's general control. In Arni there was a slight increase in the income from forests. In Madugula the District Forest Officer, Vizagapatam, continued to exercise control over the forests and an increased revenue of Rs. 7,321 was realized. The demarcation and survey of almost all the forest blocks was completed. In the Zamorin's estate the forests were in charge of a trained ranger and a proposal to lease the Puzhuthutti and Pandalūr forest blocks was under consideration. In Bodokimidi the forests were managed departmentally. The local advisory committee formed to consider the question of extending the provisions of section 26 of the Forest Act has deferred its recommendations pending the preparation of a plan for the reservation and working of an experimental block. The question of conserving the forests in the Agency tracts was under consideration.

Other estates

37. The Cochin portion of the Rāmapatnam estate continued to be under the management of the Cochin Durbar. The total receipts for the year, including the opening balance of Rs. 3,882, amounted to Rs. 21,395. The total charges amounted to Rs. 18,023, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 3,372.

Miscellaneous

38. Substantial progress was made in the inam alienation enquiry in the Bodokimidi estate for which a special staff was employed. In Sivaganga Rs. 2,000 was disbursed in loans to ryots for sinking wells—a practical step in the direction of encouraging well irrigation. The Raja's eldest daughter (by his first wife) was married during the fasli. The question of assuming management of the Murungapetta estate in the Trichinôpoly district was under consideration.

Revenue and Rent-paying Classes

(Fasli 1335—1st July 1925 to 30th June 1926)

[*Report on the settlement of Land Revenue for fasli 1335; Report on the working of the Madras Estates Land Act, 1908, during fasli 1335*]

Revenue-paying classes

39. The principal revenue-paying classes of the Presidency are zamindars, inamdars and ryotwari pattadars. The last class is by far the largest and contributed about 93 per cent of the total land revenue collected during the year under report.

The ryotwari system of land tenure implies a settlement between the Government and the individual cultivator. The practice of subletting however has long been prevalent, and continued, though it did not increase, during the year under report. It is practised chiefly by absentee pattadars, by those engaged in professions other than agriculture, by capitalists and by large landholders. In the East Gōdāvari district, however, there is a tendency among the agricultural classes to cultivate their own lands and this continued during the year under report, only the unmanageable portions of their holdings being sub-let. The practice of sub-letting was not very prevalent in the Ceded Districts also, except of lands under the Tungabhadra channels in the Bellary district.

Rent-paying classes

40. By rent-paying classes are generally meant tenants of zamindaris and whole inam villages. During the year under report no general tendency was observed on the part of tenants to sell their lands to non-cultivating classes except in the Chettinād in the Rāmnād district, where this tendency has been noticeable for some time.

There was a slight decrease during the year in the number of suits and applications instituted under the Estates Land Act. In some estates the relations between landholders and tenants were not cordial, in particular in the districts of Ganjām, West Gōdāvāri, Trichinopoly, Madura, Rāmnād and Tinnevelly. In some cases the strained relations appear to have been due to the reluctance of the tenants to pay enhanced rents and to the institution of commutation suits, and in one case to the failure of the landholder to repair irrigation works.

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CHAPTER III

PROTECTION

LEGISLATING AUTHORITY

41. *Vide* pages 140 to 143 of the Report on the Administration of the Madras Presidency for the year 1921–22.

COURSE OF LEGISLATION (1926–27)

Changes in the Council

42. The third general elections to the Madras Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly were held on the 8th November 1926. The arrangements made for the conduct of the elections worked satisfactorily and no untoward incident occurred. In 16 constituencies of the Madras Legislative Council 20 candidates were returned unopposed, while in 7 constituencies of the Legislative Assembly 7 candidates were returned unopposed. The elected members of the Madras Legislative Council consisted of 56 Non-Brahman Hindus, 18 Brahmans, 13 Muhammadans, 5 Indian Christians, 5 Europeans and one Anglo-Indian, the corresponding figures for the Legislative Assembly being 2 Non-Brahmans, 10 Brahmans, 3 Muhammadans and one European. Of the candidates returned to the Council by election, 51 were members of the previous council and 47 were new members. The total number of registered voters in the Presidency for the Legislative Council was 1,377,466, the number of voters in contested constituencies being 1,237,039. Of these, 598,360 voters or 48 per cent went to the poll. This figure shows a marked improvement over that of the last election when, of 1,174,808 voters in contested constituencies, 425,983 voters or 36·26 per cent recorded their votes. For the Legislative Assembly

constituencies the total number of voters was 277,582 and in contested constituencies 195,495. Of these, 94,700 or 48 per cent went to the poll. The number of voters who exercised their franchise exceeded 50 per cent in 32 constituencies of the Legislative Council and in 6 constituencies of the Legislative Assembly. As in the last general elections, women exercised their franchise only to a limited extent. Of the female voters in contested constituencies (106,274 in the case of the Legislative Council and 13,179 in the case of the Legislative Assembly), 20,418 voters or 19·2 per cent and 2,910 voters or 22 per cent, respectively, went to the poll.

In the second Legislative Council there were four by-elections, two of which were caused by the death and two by the resignation of elected members. In three of these by-elections the candidates were returned unopposed. In the third Legislative Council there was only one by-election, caused by the resignation of an elected member. His successor was returned unopposed. The Zamindar of Mandasa was nominated to the Legislative Council in June 1926 and the Maharaja of Jeypore in November 1926 to represent the inhabitants of backward tracts. Special members were nominated to the Legislative Council for the consideration of the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill, the Madras District Municipalities Act (Amendment) Bills and the Madras Village Panchayat Act (Amendment) Bill.

43. During the year notice was given for the introduction of 16 new Bills. Of these, eight were official Bills and eight private members' Bills. The following Bills lapsed on the dissolution of the Legislative Council in September 1926:— Legislation

(1) A bill to amend the Madras Prevention of Adulteration Act, 1918,

(2) A bill to amend and define the law of intestate succession among Jains governed by the Aliyasanthana law of inheritance,

(3) A bill to amend the Madras Village Courts (Amendment) Act, 1919, and

(4) The Elementary Education Act (Amendment) Bill.

PRO-TECTION

Five bills introduced in the year 1925-26 received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General and became law during the year under report, namely :—

(1) An Act for the registration of nurses and midwives in the Presidency of Madras—Bill No. 11 of 1924 introduced on the 20th August 1924 received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General on the 9th June 1926 and became Act III of 1926.

(2) The Madras Village Officers' Restoration Act—Bill No. 10 of 1925 introduced on the 27th August 1925 received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General on the 14th June 1926 and became Act IV of 1926.

(3) An Act to make provision for the establishment and regulation of Borstal schools for the detention and training of adolescent offenders—Bill No. 7 of 1925 introduced on the 19th August 1925 received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General on the 5th July 1926 and became Act V of 1926.

(4) An Act to amend the Madras City Tenants Protection Act, III of 1922—Bill No. 3 of 1925 introduced on the 24th August 1925 received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General on the 20th October 1926 and became Act VI of 1926.

(5) An Act to amend the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920—Bill No. 8 of 1925 introduced on the 14th December 1925 received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General on 13th January 1927 and became Act I of 1927.

The following two bills introduced in 1926 received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General and became law, namely :—

(1) A bill to declare the Kirlampudi B and C estates, Dontamuru and Rayavaram estates to be impartible—No. 4 of 1926 introduced on the 31st August 1926 received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General on the 1st November 1926 and became Act VII of 1926.

(2) A bill to provide for the better administration and governance of certain Hindu Religious Endowments and to remove certain doubts as to the legality of the action taken and things done

under the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act, 1923—No. 5 of 1926 introduced on 25th August 1926 received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General on the 19th January 1927 and became Act II of 1927.

POLICE (1926)

[*Report on the administration of the Police of the Madras Presidency for the year 1926; Statistical Abstract for British India—Police*]

General

44. The year was on the whole uneventful but was marked by a general decrease in crime. The decrease in crime, however, was accompanied by a tendency towards the formation of gangs whose ingenuity and extensive field of operations suggest that a more intensive campaign against the professional criminal is necessary. The general elections imposed a good deal of strain on the police, but the situation was handled with tact and no untoward incidents occurred. Communal tension manifested itself in the districts of Nellore, Chittoor and South Arcot, but adequate police arrangements were made and disturbances thereby avoided. Madras City itself suffered from the activities of a series of criminal organizations, but many of them were broken up during the year, largely through the efforts of the Intelligence Department. The problem of traffic control gained in intensity, and the number of motor accidents not only in the Madras City but also in the mufassal, together with the necessity for a strict and intelligent administration of traffic control rules, engaged the anxious attention of the police authorities. The year was also noticeable for the establishment in two districts of a special district detective staff, as an experimental measure. The experiment is in its infancy and no final opinion of its merits is yet possible; but it is hoped that the full development of the scheme will see the establishment in each district of a local "Scotland Yard."

Strength

45. The sanctioned strength of the permanent force (exclusive of the East Coast Special Police and the Malabar Special Police) on the last day of the year was 27,651, or 1,742 less than the corresponding figure for the previous year. The decrease was chiefly due to the re-allocation of the police in the districts and to the reorganization of the Armed Reserves.

Recruitment

46. Recruitment was easy and enlistments were made in almost all districts, the largest numbers being in Trichinopoly (144), Chingleput (113) and North Arcot (110).

Casualties

47. Casualties in the permanent force numbered 1,742 as against 1,495 in the previous year. There was a decrease in dismissals but increases in retirements on pension, resignations, discharges and desertions.

Health

48. The health of the force continued to be good. The percentage of admissions into hospitals fell, although the daily sick-rate increased from 2·9 to 3·1.

Education

49. Fifteen head constables (or 0·5 per cent) and 1,315 constables (or 5·8 per cent) were classed as illiterate at the end of the year. The Central Recruits' School at Vellore opened the year with 274 recruits under training and received 487 recruits during the year. Four hundred and thirty-six recruits were trained and sent out to districts and 158 left the force, leaving 167 under training at the end of the year. The decrease was due to the reopening of the Central Recruits' School at Coimbatore, the reorganization of the Reserves and the general re-allocation of stations in the Presidency.

The Central Recruits' School, Anantapur, opened with 156 recruits and received 435 recruits during the year as against 341 in the previous year. Three hundred and twenty-seven recruits were fully trained and sent back to their districts, 66 recruits left the force and 199 remained under training at the end of the year.

The Central Recruits' School, Coimbatore, which was closed in 1921, was reopened from 15th April. Four hundred and two recruits were received

during the year, 48 left the force, 158 were trained and sent back to their districts and 196 remained under training at the end of the year.

There were eight probationers under training in the Provincial Police Training School, Vellore, at the end of the year, of whom three were assistant district superintendents of police and five deputy superintendents of police. One probationary assistant district superintendent of police who was under training at the beginning of the year was posted to a district in November for practical training. Fifty-five mufassal sub-inspectors and one sub-inspector of the City Police completed their course of instruction during the year and were posted to districts. Two inspectors, 62 mufassal sub-inspectors and three sub-inspectors of the City Police joined the school during the year and the officers under training at the end of the year were 2 inspectors, 60 mufassal sub-inspectors and 3 sub-inspectors of the City Police. The 63 sub-inspectors included 14 B.A.'s.

Discipline

50. The percentage of the number of officers and men punished to the actual strength of the department during the year was 28.

Dismissals

Dismissals numbered 203 as against 242 in the previous year. Two inspectors were dismissed, one for insubordination and absence without leave and the other for neglect of duty in a case of double murder. Three sub-inspectors were dismissed, one for deliberate fabrication of records, another for misappropriating Government money, and a third for extortion.

Convictions of police officers

There was a further decline in the number of police officers convicted by criminal courts from 82 to 66. Thirty-one officers were convicted for offences committed in their official capacity and 35 for offences committed in their private capacity.

Rewards

The King's Police Medal was granted to four officers during the year. One officer received the M.B.E. and four officers received Indian titles. An amount of Rs. 33,109 was distributed among 4,650 police officers for good work. One reward deserves particular mention. Rs. 200 was granted by the District Magistrate of Malabar to a sub-inspector and to two other officers for the

plucky capture of a notorious rebel leader, Mukari Ayammad, who had been evading arrest since 1921. The arrest was made under particularly dangerous circumstances and reflected great credit on all concerned.

Accommodation

51. The number of police officers below the rank of inspector for whom quarters existed at the end of the year was 97 sergeants, 417 sub-inspectors, 1,954 head constables and 14,482 constables, the percentage to the sanctioned strength being 64·7, 29·0, 63·2 and 64·2 respectively.

Armed Reserves

52. The Armed Reserves were reorganized during the year and were maintained in an efficient condition. Recruiting was opened and inefficient men replaced as far as possible by ex-sepoys. The Emergency Forces were kept up to strength except in a few districts. The bicycle sections of the District Armed Reserves newly introduced during the year worked satisfactorily.

An ambulance team drawn from the Madura Reserve competed at the All-India St. John Ambulance Competition held in Madras in February and won the Lord Hardinge All-India Shield. The Kurnool Armed Reserve team was second and won the Douglas Straight Cup. The Malabar Special Force was reorganized and made permanent in April. Enlistments in accordance with the newly sanctioned strength resulted in a net increase in the force from 645, of all ranks, to 758. Discipline improved during the year and the force was inspected by military officers in October. The East Coast Special Police was efficiently maintained and was also inspected by military officers during the year. Two important expeditions out of headquarters were made, the first under the Commandant to the Parvatipur Agency and the second under the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Northern Range, to Nellore.

Village police

53. The heavy revenue duties of village officers appear in general to prevent them from being of any real service to the police. Rewards were however granted by the Police Department for good work to 450 village officers including talaiyaris.

On the other hand, 573 village officers and 242 talaiyaris were punished at the instance of the police during the year.

A special feature of the year was the introduction of a new police talaiyari scheme. Forty-eight talaiyaris were sanctioned in the Tinnevelly district as a temporary measure. They are employed on various duties hitherto performed by constables and although they are working well, the success of the scheme depends upon the manner in which they are employed and supervised ; no definite opinion is yet possible.

54. The general decrease in crime during the year is attributed to the greater demand for labour and to a more intensive campaign against criminal gangs, including a better application of security proceedings. Crime General

True cases of cognizable crime under the Indian Penal Code other than nuisances fell from 50,126 to 46,860, or by 6·5 per cent. The net decrease was contributed by a decrease in 16 districts and an increase in 10 districts. Tanjore with 25·5 per cent showed the largest decrease and Jeypore with 28·7 per cent the largest increase. The increase in Jeypore however was less an increase in crime than an improvement in the work of investigation and detection. True cases of cognizable crime

The theory that there is a connection between grave crime and food prices received further illustration during the year, as the following table shows :— Grave crime

Year.	Number of Government seers per rupee.			Cases of grave crime.
	Rice.	Cholam.	Ragi.	
1922	5·5	9·0	9·3	35,883
1923	6·0	10·4	9·8	32,995
1924 ...	5·2	8·5	9·0	36,410
1925	5·2	9·4	8·8	33,476
1926	5·6	9·7	10·0	30,631

It will be seen that there was a slight fall in the price of each of the staple food-grains and a decrease in cases of grave crime from 33,476 to 30,631, or 8·5 per cent. This decrease was common to most districts and to most classes of crime.

Criminal gangs

Three important organizations were broken up during the year. The first was an organization working in the North Arcot and neighbouring districts headed by a *swamiyar* whose alleged sanctity had protected him for a long time. In Tinnevelly a gang of Maravars who used to employ two of its members disguised as women as an advance party to procure information to facilitate the work of the main gang, ceased to exist as an organization. In the southern districts a gang of *pandarams* consisting of a number of small parties each under the leadership of a *guru* and posing as astrologers, physicians and magicians, gained the confidence of and succeeded in extracting money from the public. As the field of their operations was extensive the matter was handed over to the Criminal Investigation Department who traced eleven cases of cheating and false personation.

Offences against the person and property

Serious offences against person and property numbered 17,521 as against 19,127 in the previous year, the ratio to the population being one case for every 2,415 persons.

Dacoity

Dacoities decreased from 319 to 250 cases, a further decline of 21·6 per cent. There was a marked fall of 26 cases in the Anantapur district.

Cases of robbery, housebreaking, theft and cattle theft also decreased by 15·9 per cent, 12·6 per cent, 6·2 per cent and 9 per cent, respectively. There were, however, three cases of mail robbery during the year, a class of crime from which the previous year was free.

Counterfeiting coins and currency notes

The number of offences in respect of coinage was the same as in the previous year, viz, 26. The most important was the passing of forged 100-rupee notes brought from Rangoon in the Tinnevelley district. The case was handled by the Criminal Investigation Department and ended in conviction. The origin of the notes was traced to China. A gang of counterfeit coiners working in the Madura district was also broken up and its leaders convicted.

Hindu-Moslem tension, in particular regarding the passing of Hindu processions with music in front of mosques, manifested itself in several places, chiefly in Nellore Town and in two places in the Chittoor and South Arcot districts. Adequate police arrangements prevented serious disturbances. Faction riots in the North Arcot district necessitated the firing of five shots before the rioters dispersed. Fifteen of the ring-leaders were subsequently charged and convicted. An unfortunate disturbance occurred in the Feroke Tile Works in the Malabar district, the Manager being assaulted during the course of a strike by the coolies. Eleven persons were convicted in this connection. Social and communal movements.

The percentage of convictions throughout the Presidency increased, the proportion of cases under the Indian Penal Code (other than nuisances) that ended in conviction being 35·3 per cent as against 33·8 per cent in the previous year. The increase occurred in most districts and in most classes of crime. The increase in the percentage of convictions appears to be due to better detection work following improved methods of investigation and a more intelligent use of criminal records. During the year 1,149 persons were ordered by the courts to give security for good behaviour. Of these, 310 belonged to the Police category of known depredators, 460 were petty thieves and 9 were receivers of stolen property. The number of persons sent to jail for failure to give the security required was 734. Out of a total of 44,131 cases reported to the police (excluding offences against religion, public and local nuisances, offences under special and local laws declared to be cognizable and offences under the Criminal Tribes Act) investigation was refused in 2,861 cases or 6·5 per cent. Detection and prevention of crime

The number of cases struck off during the year as wilfully and maliciously false was 3,456 as against 3,735 in the previous year. Of the 137,874 cases prosecuted by the police, 82 cases were declared false after trial or enquiry. False cases

Escapes from police custody numbered 84 as against 92 in the previous year. Of the persons who escaped during the year, 66 were recaptured Escapes

in addition to 8 who had escaped in previous years.

C.I.D. 55. In addition to its political work, the Criminal Investigation Department dealt with cases of inter-provincial swindling, defalcation of public money and note-forgery, with satisfactory results. Two sub-inspectors were sent during the year for training in currency-note forgery under the photographic expert of the Madras Survey Department.

Shorthand Bureau The Shorthand Bureau was reorganized during the year, trained sub-inspectors being kept at headquarters and their services requisitioned as necessity arose instead of being stationed, as before, more or less permanently in district headquarters.

Finger-print Bureau The Finger-print Bureau dealt with 18,181 references (12,863 from this Presidency and 5,318 from outside) for the identification of unknown persons. The percentage of references traced remained almost the same, about 30 per cent in the case of references from this Presidency and about 10 per cent in the case of references from outside. The work of the Bureau has been steadily increasing and the question of enlarging the staff engaged attention.

Railway Police 56. There was a further decrease in thefts, the principal form of crime on the railways, from 1,689 to 1,475.

Derailment of trains There were 7 attempts to derail trains as against 10 in the previous year. Three hundred and sixty-three persons were run over by trains and killed as compared with 304 in the previous year.

Additional police 57. The additional police stationed in the Gooty taluk of the Anantapur district have had a good effect and the question of relaxing the conditions under which they were posted was considered. There were no serious riots during the year.

Cost 58. The total cost of the Department for the year 1926–27, including the cost of the Madras City Police, was Rs. 1,54,49,201 as against Rs. 1,54,56,687 in the previous year.

Madras City Police 59. The sanctioned strength of the permanent force in the Madras City on the last day of the year was 2,034 or 50 more than the figure for the previous year. The actual strength on the 31st December

1926 was 2,012. Recruitment of a good class of men continued to be easy and discipline was on the whole good, although punishments slightly increased in number. Ten men were convicted by criminal courts, six for offences committed in an official capacity and four for offences committed in a private capacity. One officer was awarded the King's Police Medal and rewards amounting to Rs. 5,124-8-0 were granted to officers and men.

Crime

The total number of true cases of cognizable crime under the Indian Penal Code, excluding nuisances, decreased still further to 2,726 cases. Grave crime decreased by 4·2 per cent. Burglaries again declined by 49 cases. The decrease was, however, confined to the Northern Range, there being an increase in the Southern Range. This was due to the depredations of a gang of Irulas from the Chittoor district. They were, however, eventually caught by smart work on the part of rounds-men who had been specially employed in connection with the outbreak of burglaries, the gang was broken up and the property concerned in twenty cases was recovered. Another gang responsible for several serious burglaries and capable of severe violence when pursued, was detected. Members of a third gang from Northern India were responsible for a heavy burglary in Park Town. Their leader, who was also wanted by the police of the United Provinces, was caught, convicted and sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment with a fine of Rs. 1,000.

Thefts fell slightly, from 1,628 to 1,598. There were no disturbances of the public peace and the general elections proceeded smoothly. Nuisance cases fell from 25,846 to 22,073.

Traffic control

The year showed that traffic control is becoming a most pressing problem and appears to require the employment of a special staff as well as a tightening up of traffic rules. The number of offences under the Motor Vehicles Act investigated during the year was 2,264 as compared with 1,864 in the previous year. Another growing problem is that of the "bucket shops," which have alarmingly increased in number. The question of their control engaged attention.

Intelligence Department

The Intelligence Department worked satisfactorily throughout the year. Its activities included, in addition to its political work, investigations into forged currency notes and enquiries into lotteries and "bucket shops."

Cost

The total cost of the City Police force was Rs. 12,64,963, as against Rs. 12,80,534 in the previous year.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE (1926)

[*Statistics of Criminal Courts in the Madras Presidency for the year 1926; Statistical Abstract for British India—Criminal Justice*]

60. On the 31st December 1926 there were in the Presidency the following criminal courts :—

The High Court, 29 sessions courts (including three for Agency tracts) together with four additional sessions judges, 25 district magistrates' courts, two additional district magistrates' courts, three presidency magistrates' courts, 111 subdivisional magistrates' courts, 15 courts of assistant and deputy magistrates without divisional charges, 461 subordinate magistrates' courts (including 160 tahsildar-magistrates' courts), 203 benches of magistrates' courts (consisting of 1,554 honorary magistrates), 56 special magistrates' courts and one honorary magistrate's court.

In addition, the subordinate judges of 12 districts exercised the powers of an assistant sessions judge. One thousand three hundred and ninety-two village magistrates and 2,326 panchayat courts also exercised criminal jurisdiction. In Madras City there were 76 honorary magistrates serving on the various benches.

Original cases

61. The total number of original cases instituted in the criminal courts during the year was 367,163 or 21,691 more than in the previous year. The increase occurred in most classes of courts, but in the sessions courts there was an appreciable decrease. Among the districts, there was a large increase in Tanjore, Coimbatore and Salem, while in Chingleput, Nellore and Vizagapatam there was a decrease.

There was a slight increase in the number of cases instituted in village magistrates' courts (3,894 against 3,703), while in panchayat courts the increase was appreciable (34,551 against 28,428). The percentage of conviction in each class of court increased, being 26·6 and 30·1 as compared with 15·1 and 22·9, respectively, in the previous year. The percentage of conviction, however, varied markedly in different districts, ranging in the case of village courts from 7 per cent in Ganjām to 80 per cent in Vizagapatam and in the case of panchayat courts from 7 per cent in Tinnevelly to 92 per cent in Bellary. Village courts

In the bench courts the volume of work remained much the same as in the previous year. 119,144 persons were tried, of whom 88,215 were convicted after summary trial, as compared with 118,731 and 87,668, respectively, in the previous year. Bench courts

During the year under report a new bench court was established at Negapatam and the bench court at Sundarapandiyam in the Rāmnād district was abolished.

The total number of cases instituted in the regular magistrates' courts in the mufassal rose from 188,854 in 1925 to 202,064 in the year under report. Before bench courts the average duration of cases was 4 days, before special magistrates 2, before sub-magistrates 14, before deputy magistrates 29, before assistant magistrates 16 and before joint magistrates 29. The system of fixing particular days for trying police cases has been introduced in most of the districts and is reported to have worked satisfactorily. The percentage of persons convicted to persons tried remained much the same as in the previous year, being 41 per cent before sub-magistrates, 48 per cent before subdivisional magistrates and 75 per cent before bench magistrates. Regular magistrates

In the presidency magistrates' courts there was a decrease in the number of cases instituted, from 42,206 in 1925 to 38,708 in the year under report. Only 159 cases were pending trial at the end of the year. Presidency magistrates

The total number of cases committed to the sessions courts in the mufassal was 1,508, an Sessions courts

appreciable decrease as compared with the 1,867 cases in the previous year. The courts to which the largest number of cases were committed were those of Coimbatore and Tinnevelly (as in the previous year) and Madura. The total number of sessions cases pending at the end of the year was 173 against 159 in 1925. The average duration of cases disposed of rose from 51 days to 64 days. Among the district averages the highest was that of Coimbatore (93) and is attributed to the trial of three sensational cases and to the disposal of a large number of cases of the previous year. Of the total number of persons actually tried, 46·35 per cent were convicted. The percentage of conviction, however, varied considerably in different courts, ranging from 23·7 per cent in Cuddapah to 64·58 per cent in Ganjām.

The High Court

The number of cases committed to the High Court sessions was 29 as compared with 25 in the previous year. No case was pending at the close of the year. The percentage of persons convicted to persons tried was 84·85 as against 63·33 in the previous year.

Appeals

Magistrates' courts

62. Of the persons convicted and sentenced by second and third-class magistrates, 10,006 or 13 per cent appealed to the first-class magistrates as compared with 10,498 or 13·7 per cent in 1925. The average period which elapsed between the presentation of an appeal and its disposal in the courts of subdivisional magistrates was 19 days; in 1925 the average duration was 20 days. The percentage of successful appellants was 35·25 as against 37·84 in 1925.

Sessions courts

Of the 8,695 persons convicted by first-class magistrates, 2,608 or 30 per cent appealed to the sessions courts as compared with 3,154 or 34 per cent in 1925. The average duration of appeals disposed of in the sessions courts was 38 days, as in the previous year. The percentage of successful appellants fell appreciably, being 23·21 as against 32·62 in 1925.

The High Court

The number of convicted persons who appealed to the High Court was 1,258 as compared with 1,226 in 1925 and the Government appealed against the acquittal of 28 persons. Of the 45 persons

concerned in appeals against acquittals (including 17 persons whose cases were pending from the previous year) the acquittal of 12 persons was upheld, in the case of 18 persons the acquittal was set aside and a conviction recorded, while in the case of 5 persons the acquittal was reversed and new trial ordered; 10 cases were pending at the close of the year. In the case of appeals against conviction, the appeals of 404 persons were rejected *in limine*. The conviction of 132 appellants was reversed, in the case of 391 persons the finding and sentences were maintained after notice and in the case of 65 persons the sentences were reduced or otherwise altered; new trial or further enquiry was ordered in the case of 11 persons and 254 appeals remained pending at the end of the year. The average duration of an appeal was 27 days as compared with 47 days in 1925. The percentage of entirely successful appellants remained much the same, being 13·15 per cent as against 13·08 per cent in the previous year.

Reference and revision

63. The following table shows the number of revision petitions taken up during the year as compared with the preceding year:—

—	Applications presented.		Cases taken up *suo motu*.	
	1925.	1926.	1925.	1926.
District Magistrates	653	700	20	15
Sessions Courts	769	739	37	34
High Court	828	878	148	138*

The total number of persons under trial during the year in the sessions courts on a charge of murder was 1,349 and the number of persons convicted was 292, of whom 284 were males. References in the case of 141 persons sentenced to death were disposed of by the High Court during the year under section 374 of the Criminal Procedure Code. In the case of 70 persons the conviction was upheld and the sentence confirmed.

* Of these 138 cases, 101 were reported by district magistrates and sessions judges and 37 were taken up by the High Court *suo motu*.

The sentence was modified either to transportation or rigorous imprisonment in the case of 29 persons, and 42 persons were acquitted. The total number of persons actually to be executed was 71 as compared with 50 in the previous year.

Jury system

64. It is reported that the jury system worked satisfactorily on the whole. Of the 1,181 persons tried by jury, the verdict was approved in the case of 1,139 persons. In the case of 35 persons a reference was made to the High Court under section 307 of the Criminal Procedure Code on the ground that the verdict was perverse. Of the cases referred to the High Court, including those pending from the previous year, the verdict of the jury was upheld in the case of 17 persons and was reversed in the case of 16 persons.

Assessors

65. Two thousand five hundred and thirty-three persons were tried with the aid of assessors. The judges agreed with all the assessors in the case of 1,289 persons, differed from one or more of them in the case of 809 and differed from all the assessors in the case of 435 persons.

Punishments

66. The total number of sentences passed during the year was 234,646. The nature of these sentences is given in the following table :—

Death	71
Transportation	225
Rigorous imprisonment	18,142
Simple imprisonment	22,006
Forfeiture of property	84
Fine	193,767
Whipping	351

These figures show no marked variation as compared with the previous year except in the case of simple imprisonment which increased by 50 per cent, from 14,658 to 22,006. The total amount of fines imposed was Rs. 11,49,985, of which a sum of Rs. 55,602 was paid to complainants as compensation.

Juveniles

67. One thousand two hundred and ninety-three boys and 181 girls were convicted during the year. Of these offenders 174 were discharged after admonition and 88 were delivered to their parents or guardians. The number of juvenile

offenders continued to be large in Madras, South Arcot, Salem and Coimbatore.

68. Of the 95,334 cases presented under the Indian Penal Code in magistrates' courts, 12,450 or 13·06 per cent were rejected under section 203 of the Criminal Procedure Code as the magistrate found no reasonable grounds for proceeding further. The majority of the disposals under this section related to cases of criminal force and assault, theft, hurt, criminal trespass and criminal intimidation, insult and annoyance. Of the persons actually tried for offences of this nature about 80 per cent were either acquitted or discharged, except in the case of theft where the percentage of acquittal was 52·67. The number of persons who were ordered to pay compensation under section 250 of the Criminal Procedure Code for preferring false and frivolous accusations was 1,276 as compared with 1,123 in the previous year. The percentage of convictions in cases tried under the Indian Penal Code was 41·6 as against 40·5 in 1925. **Miscellaneous**

69. The total receipts of civil and criminal courts in 1926 amounted to Rs. 1,59,92,639 and the charges to Rs. 95,62,107, leaving a surplus of Rs. 64,30,532. **Finance**

PRISONS (1926)

[*Report on the administration of the Jails of the Madras Presidency, 1926; Statistical Abstract for British India—Prisons*]

70. The year was marked by a fall in the total number of prisoners, a reduction in the number of admissions of convicted prisoners, a decline in the sick and mortality rates and a decrease in the total expenditure and the cost per head per prisoner. **General**

71. During the year there were in the Presidency 10 central jails, 4 district jails and 2 special jails, as in the previous year. The number of subsidiary jails decreased from 316 to 314, those at Penukonda and Hadagalli having been closed during the year. Overcrowding of civil prisoners continued to exist in certain jails and necessitated **Accommodation**

the making of special arrangements. The question of abolishing imprisonment for debt or of restricting it to cases in which bad faith can be proved or presumed was under the consideration of the Government and pending a decision on the question, no permanent additions were made to the existing accommodation for civil prisoners.

Prisoners of all classes

72. The year opened with 19,398 prisoners of all classes; 85,032 were received and 85,625 discharged, leaving 18,805 in confinement at the close of the year. The daily average number in confinement declined from 19,577 to 18,938, largely as a result of a fall in the number of admissions.

Convicts

At the beginning of the year there were 16,423 male and 225 female convicts. 21,036 males and 855 females were received by direct committal as compared with 22,720 males and 872 females in the previous year. 22,705 convicts were received by transfer. Of those discharged during the year, 2,468 were released on appeal; 14,578 on expiry of sentence; 5,736 under the remission rules and 345 by the order of Government. Forty-three were transferred to the Andamans, 23 were transferred to the Mental Hospital, Madras, 6 escaped and remained uncaptured, 63 were executed and 190 died. At the end of the year 15,923 convicts were in custody as compared with 16,648 in 1925. The daily average convict population was 16,127·88 or 518 less than in the previous year.

Undertrial prisoners

There were 1,866 undertrial prisoners in confinement at the beginning of the year, 35,846 were received during the year and 1,935 remained in custody pending trial at the end of the year. The daily average fell from 2,132·16 to 2,032·92. Of the number confined, 43 per cent were convicted and 57 per cent acquitted or released. There were 16 escapes and 23 deaths. The average period of detention before sessions courts again increased, from 34·17 days to 37·09 days, while that before magistrates again decreased, from 16·75 to 15·64 days.

Civil prisoners

At the beginning of the year there were 884 civil prisoners including 212 State prisoners in custody. 4,590 were admitted during the year, 4,504 were discharged, 19 were transferred and 4

died, leaving 947 in custody at the close of the year. The daily average population fell from 799·02 to 777·24.

State prisoners

The number of State prisoners in custody at the opening of the year was 212 and 5 were admitted during the year, all of whom were concerned in the Māppilla Rebellion. Forty-four Māppilla prisoners were discharged from jails for detention under police surveillance, while one State prisoner detained under the Ganjām and Vizagapatam Act, 1839 and two detained under the Bengal Regulation III of 1818, were transferred to other provinces. There were 170 prisoners in custody at the end of the year.

Star class

The system of classifying prisoners as star class prisoners continued to work satisfactorily. The star class prisoners are carefully selected, being the best of the casual class, and are as far as possible segregated from the ordinary prisoners. They are provided with special quarters and enjoy certain privileges such as recreation after lock-up. This system of classification is sound and undoubtedly protects the better class of prisoners from contaminating influences.

Special division

There were no special division prisoners in custody during the year.

Habituals

The total number of habitual convicts dealt with was 6,369, forming 20·07 per cent of the convict population. Their conduct was on the whole satisfactory, and the scheme of concentrating the really incorrigible element of this class in separate habitual jails continued to work well.

Youthful offenders

The number of youthful offenders under the age of 15 years admitted to jails during the year was 16, of whom 2 had been previously convicted. Six were transferred to the Senior Certified School, Chingleput, 3 were discharged after an average detention of 17 days and 3 transferred under the orders of Government to the Tanjore Borstal School, leaving 2 in custody at the end of the year. It is hoped that with the extension of the Madras Children Act throughout the Presidency and the opening up of the new Certified School at Rajahmundry, the committal of youthful offenders to jails will cease.

Mental defectives

There were 74 mentally defective prisoners in custody at the beginning of the year and 31 were admitted during the year. Of these, 7 died and 26 were transferred or released, leaving 72 at the close of the year. The concentration of this class of prisoners in the Cuddalore District Jail was continued and a proposal to construct additional cellular accommodation for them engaged attention.

Religion of convicts

Of the 21,891 convicts admitted during the year, 87·95 per cent were Hindus, 8·22 per cent Muhammadans and 3·83 per cent Christians. As compared with the previous year the percentage of Hindus increased and that of Muhammadans and Christians decreased.

Escapes

73. There were 16 escapes during the year as against 17 in the previous year. Of these, 5 were from inside and 11 from outside the jails. Thirteen convicts were recaptured during the year including 3 who had escaped in previous years.

Offences

74. The number of jail offences dealt with by jail superintendents was 3,090 as against 2,980 in the preceding year. The increase relates chiefly to the Central Jail, Vizagapatam, where habituals are confined. There were changes on the staff in the jail during the year and a general tightening up of discipline. Twenty-four offences were dealt with by criminal courts as compared with 9 in the previous year.

Punishments

75. The total number of punishments inflicted was 3,110 as compared with 2,983 in the previous year, representing an increase in percentage to average strength from 17·92 to 19·28. Corporal punishment was inflicted on 6 prisoners as compared with 15 in the previous year. This form of punishment is used as a last resort; the 6 punishments during the year under report were for assaults against prison officials.

Education

76. Elementary education was imparted to all prisoners under 30 years of age and technical instruction was given so far as was possible. The jail schools were visited by inspecting officers of the Educational Department and favourable reports were received from them. Lectures on

moral and religious subjects were regularly given by honorary lecturers, and on health and sanitation by the medical staff attached to the jails. Magic lantern exhibitions were given in several jails and facilities were offered to prisoners to make use of the jail libraries.

Special training was given to some prisoners in first aid and ambulance work and selected teams were sent to Ajmer in January to compete in the All-India St. John Ambulance Competitions.

77. The year showed an appreciable development in the work of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society. Nine hundred and fifty-five discharged prisoners were assisted during the year as compared with 351 in the previous year. This number included 229 of the 258 persons released from the Borstal School during the year who were assisted by the Borstal Association. It is noticeable that this increase in the number of persons assisted took place among district societies, among whom the number assisted rose from 187 to 841. The number assisted by the Central Society, Madras, fell from 164 to 114. In addition, the Central Committee, Madras gave shelter and assistance to 384 members of Mappilla families who were travelling to join relatives in the Andamans. Among district societies, particularly good work was done by those of Rajahmundry, Vellore and Tanjore. The number of district committees remained the same but four additional branch committees were formed, while two more resumed active work during the year. Progress was also made in the establishment of "Homes" for the temporary accommodation of ex-prisoners seeking the aid of the society and awaiting employment. Until recently the "Home" in Madras was the only one of its kind; but Bellary has now been provided with a suitable building subscribed for by various local gentlemen, and private subscribers have also ensured the early construction of "Homes" in Coimbatore, Vellore and Salem. Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society

78. The number of convicts released under the remission rules increased from 5,311 to 5,540. No convict entitled to the privileges of the remission system failed to earn remission. Special remission Remission

for continuous good conduct was awarded to 8,105 convicts as compared with 8,181 in 1925. Extra remission for work turned out over and above the prescribed task was earned by 752 convicts.

Advisory boards

79. The scheme of the conditional release of convicts on the recommendation of advisory boards continued to work satisfactorily and has been the means of improving the conduct of prisoners and discipline generally. Four hundred and twenty-eight cases were placed before the boards for consideration, of which 264 were rejected and 164 recommended to Government. Of this number the Government ordered the release of 144 prisoners. Four convicts whose cases were pending orders of Government at the end of 1925 were also released during the year.

Vital statistics and sanitation

80. The figures for sickness and mortality during the year show a marked and creditable improvement in the medical administration of the jails, the sick and death rates being the lowest on record since 1917. The number of prisoners admitted into hospital, the average daily number of sick and the number of deaths fell respectively from 5,856, 289·70 and 245 in 1925 to 5,552, 266·56 and 217 in 1926. The death rate per mille of average strength decreased from 12·51 to 11·46. There were two isolated cases of death from cholera, one in the District Jail, Madura, and the other in the sub-jail at Pattukkōttai in the Tanjore district. The number of deaths from dysentery fell from 45 to 27, of which 20 occurred among the Mappillas in the Alipuram Jail. Many of these Mappilla prisoners were infected with dysentery when admitted to the jail. Of all jails the Alipuram Jail showed the greatest improvement in health statistics. There were 44 deaths as against 95 in the previous year, the death rate falling from 22·87 per cent to 10·92 per cent. There was also a decrease in the number of sick prisoners.

The majority of jails get their water-supply from wells, all of which are protected and periodically cleaned and hankinized; drinking water is sterilized by chlorination and field tests are systematically carried out in order to ensure efficient sterilization. Water scarcity was felt in

Bellary, Salem and Vellore during the year, but it was found possible to provide for all requirements. Various improvements were also made in the drainage, sanitation and cooking arrangements of certain jails during the year. The Alipuram Jail water-supply scheme that was completed during 1925 presented certain defects which engaged attention during the year.

Jail visitors

81. There was an increase in the total number of visits paid by official and non-official visitors during the year. The non-official visitors included ladies, and gentlemen who lectured on moral and religious subjects. The official visitors included the Director of Industries who visited the Central Jail and the Alipuram Jail and gave technical advice in matters relating to the management of jail industries.

Finance

82. The total expenditure, excluding the outlay on jail buildings by the Public Works Department and the expenditure relating to Certified Schools, amounted to Rs. 26,88,077 as against Rs. 29,28,467 in the year 1925. The reduction of nearly Rs. 2½ lakhs was largely due to a fall in the prison population but also to some extent to a stricter financial control. The decrease is noticeable under most heads of expenditure. There was a decrease in dietary charges and an appreciable decrease in hospital charges, the latter being due partly to a closer scrutiny of medical indents and partly to the smaller number of admissions into hospital. Deducting the charges against manufactures, general supervision, petty construction and repairs, travelling allowance of the gazetted establishment and four other minor items, the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 21,77,462 as compared with Rs. 23,19,833 in the previous year, the average cost of each prisoner falling from Rs. 118-12-5 to Rs. 114-15-8. The total value of articles manufactured in jails was Rs. 7,82,499 as compared with Rs. 10,11,168 in the previous year. The decline in the value of manufactured articles was due to a reduction in the price of raw materials and to the employment of convicts on less remunerative labour.

The net cash earnings during the year were Rs. 4,21,686 as against Rs. 4,23,172 in the previous year. The value of garden produce issued to prisoners and sold to the public increased considerably, from Rs. 42,049 in 1925 to Rs. 50,879 in 1926. The total value of articles supplied to other departments of Government remained about the same, being Rs. 2,39,564 as compared with Rs. 2,47,837 in the previous year.

Borstal School, Tanjore

83. There were 447 inmates in the Tanjore Borstal School at the beginning of the year ; 329 were received during the year, 269 were released, 11 were transferred to other jails as they were found unfit subjects for Borstal treatment, 23 were transferred for other reasons, one escaped and 472 remained at the end of the year.

Owing to insufficiency of accommodation in the Borstal School, Tanjore, many Mappilla adolescents have been concentrated at the District Jail, Palamcottah, where they receive a modified course of Borstal treatment. There were 148 Mappillas at Palamcottah at the beginning of the year and 128 at the end of the year. The Borstal system, which includes elementary education and industrial and physical training, is reported to be working satisfactorily.

The Madras Borstal Schools Act was under consideration during the year, has since received the assent of the Governor General and has been brought into operation.

CERTIFIED SCHOOLS

[*Report on the working of the Certified Schools for the year 1926*]

84. The year 1926 was the first complete year of management of the Certified Schools by the Jail Department, to whom it was transferred from the Educational Department in 1925. At the beginning of the year there were four schools for boys certified under the Madras Children Act ; the Senior Certified School, Chingleput, the Junior Certified School, Ranipet, the Elementary School attached to the Madras Society for the Protection

of Children and the American Advent Mission Industrial School, Vēlachēri. During the year a new Junior Certified School for boys was opened at Rajahmundry. At the close of the year the three following institutions were certified by Government as schools for the reception of youthful offenders and children of the female sex :—(1) the girls' school established by the Madras Children's Aid Society, Madras, as a Senior Certified School for girls, (2) Home of the Madras Society for the Protection of Children and (3) St. Mary's Ādi-Drāvida Girls' School, Vellore, both as Junior Certified Schools. The Remand Home established by the Madras Children's Aid Society was also formally recognized by Government during the year. The Madras Children Act was extended throughout the Presidency with effect from 31st August 1926. From that date the Reformatory Schools Act, with the exception of section 15, ceased to operate.

The Senior Certified School, Chingleput

85. The Senior Certified School, Chingleput, is designed for the training of youthful male offenders between the ages of 12 and 18 and has accommodation for 300 pupils. There were 231 pupils at the beginning of the year; 111 were received during the year and 80 left, leaving 262 at the end of the year. The existing buildings are in good order but require certain improvements, including the installation of electric lighting, for which funds have been sanctioned. The health of the school was satisfactory. There were no deaths and the daily average of sick persons fell from 5·01 in the previous year to 2·9. Malaria was less prevalent this year than in the previous year, no doubt due to the anti-malarial measures that were undertaken.

The system of general education and industrial instruction continued on the same lines as in the previous year and the results of the various examinations held were satisfactory except in the carpentry section ; the reorganization of that section received attention. Religious and moral instruction was also given daily, due attention being paid to the particular religious belief of each boy. Special attention was given to games and

Chapter III PROTECTION

physical training, which form a part of the daily routine. The house system was introduced during the year and worked satisfactorily, and Scoutcraft became a regular feature of the training. It is hoped that these measures, together with the confidence and trust it is sought to place in the boys, will promote discipline and instil self-reliance. First-aid and ambulance training continued to be taught and two teams competed at Ajmer for the Education Shield in the All-India Ambulance Competitions. They did not win the shield but bore themselves with distinction. The school was visited by officials and non-officials during the year.

Of the 74 pupils discharged during the year, 62 were handed over to their parents, 6 were found employment and 6 were placed in the care of probation officers. Three have since been reconvicted and 23 are suitably employed. Information concerning the others is not yet available.

The Junior Certified School, Ranipet

86. The Junior Certified School, Ranipet, is intended for the training of children (under 14 years). Consequent on the provision of quarters for the Superintendent the accommodation of the school has increased from 80 to 125.

There were 61 boys at the beginning of the year ; 44 were admitted and 35 left during the year, leaving 70 boys in the school at the end of the year. The school buildings require certain improvements and funds have been sanctioned for the purpose. The general health of the boys, which was not altogether satisfactory last year, showed great improvement during the year. The water-supply of the school continued to be unsatisfactory and its improvement engaged attention. Funds have also been sanctioned for the construction of a new kitchen.

The system of training includes elementary education, religious and moral instruction, vocational training such as weaving and carpentry, and physical training and sports.

The Junior Certified School, Rajahmundry

87. The Junior Certified School, Rajahmundry, was opened with effect from 1st November 1926 for the reception of juvenile offenders of the Telugu districts under twelve years of age.

A private building having accommodation for 60 boys was taken on lease for five years for the purpose of the school. Twenty boys were admitted at the end of the year, 1 direct and 19 by transfer from the Junior Certified School, Ranipet. The system of education, moral instruction, physical training and sports is similar to that in the other certified schools, particular attention being paid to the development of the Scout movement. The health of the boys was satisfactory.

Auxiliary Certified Schools

88. There were 71 children in the Elementary School attached to the Madras Society for the Protection of Children at the beginning of the year, of whom 11 were certified by magistrates under the Children Act, and 17 more were received during the course of the year. The institution includes a separate home for the reception of girls dealt with under the Act.

Elementary education was given in Tamil and English and special attention was paid to moral instruction and physical training. The boys were also trained in carpentry and gardening and the girls in tailoring, spinning and cooking.

Only one boy was admitted during the year to the American Advent Mission Industrial School, Vēlachēri.

CIVIL JUSTICE (1926)

[*Statistics of Civil Courts in the Madras Presidency for the year 1926; Statistical Abstract for British India—Civil Justice*]

General Courts

89. On the 31st December 1926, there were in the Presidency the following permanent civil courts :—

The High Court, the Presidency Court of Small Causes, the City Civil Court, 29 district courts (including 3 for Agency tracts), 42 subordinate judges' courts (including 7 for Agency tracts and one revenue officer exercising the powers of a subordinate judge), 2 special small cause courts, 179 district munsifs' courts (including 22 for Agency tracts and 5 revenue officers

exercising the powers of district munsifs) and 127 revenue courts.

Administrative changes

The old Kistna district was bifurcated into two new districts, West Gōdāvari and Kistna, with effect from 18th January 1926 with their headquarters at Ellore and Masulipatam respectively.

There were in addition seven temporary subordinate judges' courts. Besides these temporary courts there were 16 temporary subordinate judges and 11 temporary district munsifs attached to permanent courts under the Amended Civil Courts Act. The court of the Agency additional district judge was abolished with effect from August and a temporary subordinate judge's court was established in its place from December. Twelve subordinate judges were invested with the powers of an assistant sessions judge during the year.

Litigation

General

90. The year under report did not present any marked changes in the volume of civil litigation. There was a slight decrease in the total number of suits instituted, but this was largely confined to village courts ; in other mufassal courts there was a slight increase in the number of original suits instituted. Disposals did not in general keep pace with institutions, with the result that there was a slight increase in pendency in most classes of courts. These variations, however, were not so marked as either to require or to permit the assignment of a definite cause for them. The extension of the small cause powers of subordinate judges from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000, which was effected during the year under report, may in course of time accelerate the general disposal of work, but no definite opinion can be expressed until the change has been longer in force.

In the High Court, the two temporary judges appointed in 1924 continued to sit, their tenure of office having been extended during the year under report. There were thus fourteen judges at work throughout the year. This enabled three judges to work on the original side, with the result that the arrears on that side were still further reduced.

The total number of suits instituted during the year in all courts, including village and

panchayat courts, was 593,428 as against 600,682 in 1925 and 559,665 in 1924. For the Presidency as a whole, one suit was instituted for every 71 persons, as compared with one suit for every 70 persons in the previous year. Malabar North and South, which form one revenue district, continued to be the most litigious area, the figures showing an average of one suit for every 38 persons. Apart from the Agency tracts, the least litigious district was again Bellary, with one suit for every 192 persons. The following table shows the nature of the suits instituted during the year :—

	1925.	1926.
Suits for money or movable property.	525,555	520,913
Suits for immovable property, other than mortgage suits	20,189	19,890
Mortgage suits	22,429	24,212
Suits for specific relief	4,358	4,046
Suits in revenue courts	26,598	22,822

Value of suits

The value of suits instituted in 1926 in courts other than village, panchayat and revenue courts and unpaid tribunals was Rs. 1,129 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 1,107 lakhs in 1925. The average value of a suit remained about the same, being Rs. 369 in 1926 as against Rs. 364 in 1925.

Plaintiffs succeeded in obtaining decrees for the whole or part of the relief claimed by them in 80·64 per cent of the suits disposed of, exclusive of suits compromised or disposed of without trial. The percentage in 1925 was 80·49 and the average for the preceding five years ending with 1924 was 78·31.

The total number of appeals preferred in 1926 was 15,637 or 1,463 less than in the previous year. The average for the preceding five years ending with 1924 was 16,321.

Original jurisdiction

Village munsifs' courts

91. The total number of suits instituted in village munsifs' courts was 82,669 as against 89,731 in 1925. There was however a corresponding decrease in disposals, with the result that the number of suits left pending remained much the same as at the close of the previous year.

Village panchayat courts

The total number of suits instituted in panchayat courts was 181,475 as against 179,922 in 1925.

It is satisfactory to observe that there has been a steady rise in the number of suits instituted in these courts since the year 1922. The increase in the number of suits instituted was most marked in the districts of Madura, East Gōdāvari and Rāmnād, but there was an appreciable decrease in the Kistna and South Kanara districts. Disposals remained much the same, with the result that there was an increase in pendency at the end of the year. The total number of suits transferred by district munsifs to village and panchayat courts was 1,856 as against 1,780 in 1925.

Revenue courts

The number of suits filed in revenue courts other than in the Agency tracts fell from 26,333 to 22,581. The most marked decrease occurred in the Trichinopoly district, where there was a fall of more than 50 per cent. The result of the fall in institutions was a fall in the number of pending suits, in spite of the decrease in disposals. The average duration of contested suits was 312 days and of uncontested suits 87 days, as compared with 204 and 128 days in 1925 ; it should however be noted that the average duration in 1924 was 336 and 146 days respectively. The percentage of appeals preferred against the decisions of revenue courts to the appealable decrees passed by them fell from 9·80 to 4·07 in 1926. Of the original decrees appealed against 40·04 per cent were confirmed as compared with 34·87 per cent in 1925.

Agency courts

There was a slight increase in the number of suits instituted in Agency courts (1,723 against 1,685 in 1925) and a decrease in disposals (1,728 against 1,831 in 1925). Consequently there was a rise in the number of suits left pending, the number being 502 as compared with 462 at the end of the previous year. The average duration of contested suits remained about the same, being 202 days, while that of uncontested suits fell from 79 days to 63 days.

District munsifs' courts

In the district munsifs' courts, other than those in the Agency tracts, there was a further increase in the number of ordinary suits instituted during the year (115,924 against 111,429 in 1925). This total increase was made up by increases in 17 districts, the increase being appreciable in the

districts of Guntūr and Salem, and by decreases in nine districts. There was, however, a general increase in disposals (119,082 against 115,348 in 1925), again most marked in the districts of Guntūr and Salem. As a result of the increase in disposals, the increase in the number of suits left pending at the end of the year was, in spite of the greater number of institutions, comparatively small, being 51,230 as against 49,814 in 1925. Two hundred and thirteen suits instituted between the years 1912 and 1922 still remained pending at the end of the year. The average duration of contested suits fell from 309 days in 1925 to 296 days in the year under report, but still remains above the prescribed average of 250 days. The percentage of appeals to appealable decrees passed by district munsifs' courts was 9·93 against 10·57 in 1925. Of the decrees appealed against, 54·73 per cent of the number decided were confirmed.

As regards small cause suits, the number instituted during the year remained much the same, but there was a slight fall in disposals and a corresponding rise in the total number of suits left pending at the end of the year.

Special small cause courts

The number of suits filed in the special small cause courts remained about the same (11,426 against 11,416). 11,476 suits were disposed of, leaving 1,504 suits pending at the end of the year. The average duration of contested and uncontested suits again improved, falling from 135 and 36 days in 1925 to 105 and 30 days respectively.

Subordinate judges' courts

The number of ordinary suits (2,957) instituted in subordinate judges' courts during the year was more than in the previous year (2,804), but about the same as in 1924 (2,977). Disposals, however, did not keep pace with the increased number of institutions, with the result that there was an increase in the number of suits left pending at the end of the year. The average duration of contested original suits again fell from 581 days in 1925 to 552 days. With regard to small cause suits, there was a slight decrease in the number instituted (27,979 against 28,246) and a similar decrease in the number of disposals.

District courts

In the district courts, excluding the courts in the Agency tracts, 524 ordinary suits were

instituted. This figure shows an increase of 59 suits over that of last year but is less than the average for the preceding five years (542) ending with 1924. The number of suits disposed of rose appreciably (from 287 to 410) and the number of suits pending at the end of the year remained the same (532). The average number of days that district judges were able to devote to civil work was 111; most of this time was occupied in civil appellate and miscellaneous work and the total number of ordinary suits disposed of by all the district judges after trial was 394. The average duration of contested original suits increased from 558 days in 1925 to 579 days, while that of uncontested suits remained about the same (124).

City Civil Court and Presidency Court of Small Causes

In the Madras City Civil Court, 700 suits were instituted against 762 in 1925. The Judge disposed of 774 suits, of which 437 were contested. In the Presidency Court of Small Causes the number of suits instituted was 16,148 (against 18,018 in 1925) and the number disposed of was 17,213.

The High Court

In the High Court of Judicature, 780 suits were instituted as compared with 907 in 1925, the decrease being chiefly noticeable under the heads of "suits for money or movable property" and "suits for immovable property." One thousand and thirty-six suits were disposed of during the year, as against 1,215 in 1925, and the arrears fell from 1,113 to 901. The average duration of contested suits (of which there were 662) was 661 days and that of uncontested suits 175 days, as compared with 662 and 221 days respectively, in 1925.

Insolvency petitions

92. The number of insolvency petitions presented in the mufassal courts again increased, from 3,419 to 3,865, but in the High Court decreased from 529 to 503. Disposals increased both in the mufassal courts (from 6,117 to 6,645) and in the High Court (from 77 to 280).

Appellate courts

Agency tracts

93. The number of regular appeals preferred in the Agency tracts rose from 119 in 1925 to 126 in the year under report, as compared with an average of 64 for the five years ending with 1924. The number disposed of was 153 and 27 were left pending at the end of the year. There was a marked fall in the average duration of appeals, from 155 days in 1925 to 64 days during the year

under report. The percentage of decrees confirmed to decrees appealed against was 52·29.

In the district and subordinate judges' courts the number of appeals filed was 12,374 as against 13,660 in 1925. The number of regular appeals disposed of by subordinate judges was 6,950. The arrears fell from 5,034 to 4,766, including a decrease in the number of appeals pending for more than six months from 3,439 to 3,199. The average duration of appeals disposed of was 423 days in the case of contested appeals and 276 days in the case of uncontested appeals, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 363 and 275 days respectively. 4,806 regular appeals were disposed of by the district judges as against 5,934 in 1925 and there was a decrease in the arrears from 9,175 to 8,131. The average duration fell markedly, from 607 days to 381 days in the case of contested appeals and from 264 days to 182 days in the case of uncontested appeals. District and subordinate judges' courts

The following table illustrates the situation in regard to the disposal of appeals by the High Court:— The High Court

	Number preferred during		Number disposed of during		Number pending at the end of		Average duration in days.	
	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926
From original decrees of mufassal courts	472	373	388	362	1,335	1,346	675	869
From orders of mufassal courts ...	567	471	572	436	712	747		
From decrees passed on the Original Side of the High Court ...	132	124	133	129	141	136		
From decrees of the City Civil Court ...	66	49	80	154	158	53		
Letters Patent appeals (other than Original Side appeals)	299	428	177	199	250	479		
Appeals against appellate decrees ..	1,908	1,984	1,575	1,645	3,452	3,791	797	756
Appeals against appellate orders ...	172	135	131	180	275	230		

It will be seen that there was a slight decrease in the total number of appeals of all kinds preferred during the year and a slight increase in the number left pending at the end of the year. The predominating factor was the large increase in Letters Patent appeals, 428 being preferred during the year as compared with 229 in the previous year; and although disposals increased they did not keep pace with the increase in filing, with the result that the number left pending at the end of the year rose from 250 to 479. The increase in this class of appeals is reported to be due to the new practice of having City Civil Court appeals and second appeals tried by a single judge. There was also a slight increase in the number of second appeals preferred during the year and in the number left pending at the end of the year. On the other hand there was a decrease in the number of appeals from original decrees or orders of mufassal courts, although the number left pending at the end of the year remained much the same as at the end of 1925.

Appeals to the Privy Council

At the beginning of the year there were 14 applications for leave to appeal to His Majesty in Council pending before the High Court. Seventy-nine applications were received during the year. Of the total number of applications for leave to appeal, 9 were rejected, leave was granted in 48 cases and 36 were left pending at the close of the year. In the Privy Council in England 29 applications were pending from the previous year and 13 were admitted during the year. Of the total of 42 appeals for disposal, 5 were dismissed with costs, 2 were allowed, 1 remanded, 1 modified, 1 dismissed for non-prosecution and 2 compromised, leaving 30 pending at the end of the year.

Reference and revision

94. There was an appreciable fall in the number of revision petitions presented to the High Court, from 1,407 in 1925 to 1,170 in the year under report; of this number 401 were for the revision of decisions in small cause suits. There was on the other hand an increase in the number of petitions disposed of (1,379 against 1,225) and as a result a fall in the arrears (from 1,667 to 1,458). Of the total number of petitions disposed of 80·35 per cent were dismissed.

The number of cases referred to the High Court by lower courts, the Commissioner of Income-tax and the Board of Revenue was 23. Of the total number of 44 cases for disposal, 16 were disposed of, leaving 28 pending at the end of the year.

95. The total number and the results of execution applications during the year remained much the same as in 1925. The number of new applications was 367,307 as against 360,225 in 1925 and the number disposed of was 367,924 as against 360,840. There was a slight increase in the number pending at the end of the year, from 58,845 to 61,861. Satisfaction was obtained in full in 16·03 per cent and in part in 9·14 per cent of the applications disposed of, the percentages for the previous year being 16·06 and 8·89 respectively. The total amount realized in execution was Rs. 192·4 lakhs as compared with Rs. 173·7 lakhs in 1925. The number of debtors who were imprisoned rose slightly, from 3,658 to 3,782. **Execution applications** Mufassal courts

The total number of applications for execution received during the year in the City Civil Court, Presidency Court of Small Causes and the High Court was 17,400 as against 16,854 in 1925. 17,192 applications were disposed of, leaving 2,521 applications pending at the end of the year. Satisfaction was obtained in full in 11·80 per cent and in part in 7·66 per cent of the applications disposed of; these figures show a slight increase over those of 1925. The amount realized in execution also slightly increased, from Rs. 2·17 lakhs to Rs. 2·36 lakhs. One hundred and thirty-seven debtors were imprisoned as against 143 in 1925. Madras courts

96. In the mufassal courts other than village and panchayat courts, 2,987,959 processes were executed by amins and peons; the average for each amin was 207 and for each peon 377, much the same as in 1925. The receipts from the execution of processes amounted to Rs. 22·18 lakhs and the charges Rs. 19·68 lakhs, leaving a surplus of Rs. 2·5 lakhs. The experiment first attempted in 1917 of supplying process-servers with apparatus for taking the thumb impressions of illiterate persons in token of the receipt of a process has been introduced in all districts and is reported to have worked satisfactorily. **Processes**

Legal practitioners

97. At the end of the year there were on the rolls of the High Court 257 advocates, 2,372 vakils and 73 attorneys, while in the mufassal courts there were 3,744 first-grade pleaders and 884 second-grade pleaders. Two attorneys, 5 advocates, 122 vakils and 393 first-grade pleaders were admitted during the course of the year.

The total receipts for civil, criminal and revenue courts in the Presidency in 1926 amounted to Rs. 159·9 lakhs and the charges to Rs. 95·6 lakhs, leaving a surplus of Rs. 64·3 lakhs. The expenditure by the Public Works Department was Rs. 1·99 lakhs. The cost of printing done in the Government Press was Rs. 3 lakhs and of stationery supplied Rs. ·71 lakh. The number of civil courts working in rented buildings was 32 and a sum of Rs. 28,545 was spent on rent.

REGISTRATION AND COMPANIES

[*Report on the administration of the Registration Department for the year 1926; Report on the working of the Indian Companies Act, 1913, the Provident Insurance Societies Act, 1912, and the Indian Life Assurance Companies Act, 1912, for the year 1926-27; Statistical Abstract for British India —Registration and Joint Stock Companies*]

Registration (1926)

Administrative changes

98. There was no change in the number of district charges (30) and of district registrars (33) during the year; but the headquarters of the new registration district of West Gōdāvari which was located at Nidadavole as a temporary measure was transferred to Ellore with effect from 1st October 1926.

Four new sub-registry offices were permanently opened and two were started as a temporary measure during the year; sanction was granted for the continuance of two temporary offices while one temporary office was made permanent. In consequence of these changes the number of sub-offices rose from 540 to 546 and the number of sub-registrars from 596 to 602. Readjustments of jurisdiction were effected in 13 districts in the interests of the public convenience.

The total number of documents registered remained about the same, being 1,394,063 as compared with 1,397,479 in the previous year. The largest decrease occurred in the Madura, Rāmnād, Villupuram and Cuddalore districts, chiefly owing to the stringency of the money market and the failure of rains. The total value of all documents registered rose slightly, from Rs. 62 crores in the previous year to nearly Rs. 64 crores in the year under report. Registrations

Applications for encumbrance certificates rose from 85,341 in the previous year to 89,775, due in part to the increase in the transactions of co-operative societies. The number of certified copies granted during the year remained about the same, being 99,317 as against 99,356 in the previous year. Searches

The income from fees for registering documents rose from Rs. 30·81 lakhs to Rs. 31·11 lakhs, in proportion to the increase in the total value of the documents registered. The income on account of searches and copies also increased from Rs. 6·3 lakhs to Rs. 6·6 lakhs. The expenditure rose from Rs. 26·43 lakhs to Rs. 27·82 lakhs. Finance

99. Seven hundred and fifty-nine companies were working at the beginning of the year, 679 with and 80 without share capital. Fifty-two companies were registered during the year, 2 companies were restored to the register and 68 companies were either wound up or struck off the register. There were thus 745 companies working at the end of the year, 662 with and 83 without share capital. The situation during the year was no more favourable to the promotion of companies than in the previous year and was the result of the continued stringency of the money market, the depression in trade and the growth of co-operative societies. The decline in the registration of companies which commenced four years ago continued, and registrations during the year (52) were but a half of those of 1922–23 (101). Registered companies (1926-27) The Indian Companies Act

The total capital of the new companies registered during the year was Rs. 1·0 crore as against Rs. 1·29 crores in the previous year. New companies

The largest flotation during the year was the South Indian Farms, Limited, of Trichinopoly, with an authorized capital of Rs. 25,00,000; its object is the business of farming, dairying and livestock breeding on modern and scientific lines. The formation of this and of two similar though smaller companies marks a welcome step in the direction of agricultural development by non-official organization. The second largest flotation during the year was the Chitavalsah Jute Mills Company, Limited, of Vizagapatam, with an authorized capital of Rs. 15 lakhs, an offspring of "The South Indian Industrials, Limited."

Private companies

Sixteen new companies were registered during the year, 3 public companies converted themselves into private companies and 28 companies ceased to exist. The total number of private companies at the end of the year was 135 as against 144 at the end of the previous year.

Capital

The total authorized capital of all registered companies at the end of the year was Rs. 28·99 crores as against Rs. 29·17 crores at the end of the previous year. The paid-up capital increased from Rs. 12·33 crores to Rs. 12·53 crores. During the year nine companies increased their authorized capital (by a total of Rs. 24 lakhs) while four companies reduced it (by a total of Rs. 9 lakhs).

Companies that ceased to exist

Twenty-eight of the 68 companies that ceased to exist during the year were trading and manufacturing concerns; business conditions were generally unfavourable, due to the continued depression in trade and the unsatisfactory condition of the money market. Ten of these abortive companies, however, were "chit funds" which are generally ill-managed and are fast disappearing. Fifteen companies went into voluntary liquidation, six were compulsorily wound up and 47 were struck off the register. At the end of the year there were 74 certificated auditors, of whom 54 possessed unrestricted certificates (including 19 which were granted during the year) and 20 restricted certificates.

Finance

The receipts fell from Rs. 23,587 to Rs. 21,744 as a result of the fall in the number of new registrations. The expenditure fell from Rs. 31,233 to

Rs. 29,805, there being no debit under leave allowances as in the previous year.

Provident insurance societies

Thirteen societies were in existence at the beginning of the year, two new societies were registered and one ceased to exist ; there were thus 14 societies at the end of the year. Of the two new societies, one, called "The Madras Presidency Postmen and Postal and Railway Mail Service Lower Staff Mutual Benefit Fund," is intended to serve the needs of the lower staff of the Postal and the Railway Mail Service Department ; it was already in existence as a non-registered society and was registered during the year in order to secure legal status. The second new society, called "The Catholic Benefit Fund, Limited," has its head office at Tuticorin and is intended exclusively for the benefit of Roman Catholic Christians.

Life assurance companies

There were six life assurance companies in existence at the end of the year, two having ceased to function during the year. They are two of the oldest funds established by Christian missionaries in India. One of them, the Madras Widows' and Orphans' Fund (established in 1834), was wound up by the High Court on the application of certain members of the fund ; the other, the Madura Widows' Aid Society (established in 1865), ceased to exist of its own accord.

Notaries Public (1926-27)

100. The number of registering officers who exercised the functions of a Notary Public during the year fell from 200 to 199, consequent on the transfer of the headquarters of the registration district of West Gōdāvari from Nidadavole to Ellore with effect from 1st October 1926. There were 149 transactions during the year amounting in value to Rs. 1,77,740, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 257 transactions amounting to Rs. 4,14,267. The marked decline in the number of transactions occurred chiefly in the registration districts of Palghat (34 against 110), Tinnevelly (9 against 39) and Palamcottah (3 against 19) and was apparently due to improved trade conditions in those districts. In the remaining districts, where trade conditions continued to

be generally unfavourable, changes in the number of transactions were comparatively negligible. The fees realized during the year amounted to Rs. 640-6-0 as against Rs. 896-10-0 in the previous year.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

(1ST JULY 1926 TO 30TH JUNE 1927)

[*Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies Act (II of 1912) for the year 1926-27; Statistical Abstract for British India—Co-operative Societies*]

General

101. During the year, the Government sanctioned the continuance for one year of the temporary post of Joint Registrar established in April 1926. Experience of the working of the re-organization scheme introduced two years ago has shown that the present staff of deputy registrars is inadequate and proposals have been made for an increase in their number. Forty-six honorary assistant registrars were appointed during the year, making a total of 233. Proposals for the increase of the subordinate staff were also under consideration; the number of affiliated societies has doubled during the last six years and their total working capital has more than doubled, whereas the official staff has remained almost stationary.

The total cost of working the Co-operative Societies Act during the year was Rs. 7·30 lakhs. This represents ·55 per cent of the total working capital as compared with ·61 per cent in the previous year.

Progress

102. Although the expansion of the co-operative movement throughout the Presidency was more marked than in the previous year, the generally unfavourable character of the agricultural season was reflected in the collections made during the year under report.

Expansion and consolidation

Expansion was most marked in the districts of Chingleput, North Arcot, Tinnevelly, Malabar, Tanjore, Ganjām, South Arcot, Trichinopoly and

Kistna, the number of societies registered during the year ranging from 129 in Chingleput to 71 in Kistna. In Guntūr, Gōdāvari East and Kurnool attention was paid more to consolidation than to expansion. In Chittoor, South Kanara and Salem in particular great care had to be bestowed on consolidation and the collection of overdues. In the remaining districts, both branches of work proceeded hand in hand.

Number of societies

There were 11,973 societies of all classes at the beginning of the year. One thousand four hundred and fifty-five societies were registered and the registration of 71 societies was cancelled during the year, leaving 13,357 societies at the end of the year. The number of new societies (1,455) was appreciably more than the number in the previous year (877). Most of the societies registered during the year were agricultural societies (1,290). The remainder included 123 non-agricultural societies, 20 local supervising unions and one propagandist union.

Membership

The total number of members in all societies at the close of the year, excluding local supervising unions and district federations, was 830,522 as compared with 748,783 in the previous year. Of these, 497,940 were classified as agriculturists, 242,054 as non-agriculturists and 90,528 as partly dependent upon agriculture. The average membership per society was 64. The percentage of society membership to the population of the Presidency was 1·94 as compared with 1·75 in the previous year.

Working capital of societies

The total working capital of all societies at the close of the year was Rs. 1,334·34 lakhs as compared with Rs. 1,132·80 lakhs at the end of the previous year. The paid-up share capital rose from Rs. 153·32 lakhs to Rs. 175·48 lakhs, deposits by individuals and institutions from Rs. 437·47 lakhs to Rs. 506·17 lakhs and reserve funds, after audit, from Rs. 56·50 lakhs to Rs. 68·54 lakhs. Loans from Government increased from 17·69 lakhs to Rs. 23·39 lakhs. The actual working capital employed in the movement at the close of the year —not taking into account the investments of one

society in another—was Rs. 727·35 lakhs, made up as follows :—

	LAKHS. RS.
Paid-up share capital of individuals	139·57
Deposits of individuals, institutions, etc. ...	506·17
Reserve Fund	58·22
Loans from Government	23·39
Total ...	727·35

Of the above amount, the owned capital (Rs. 197·79 lakhs) represented 37·35 per cent of the borrowed capital. The total figure shows an increase of Rs. 103 lakhs over the corresponding figure of the previous year and may be regarded as indicating the growth of public confidence in the co-operative movement.

Collection

It is a matter of some anxiety that the deterioration in the collection of dues by all societies commented upon last year has proceeded still further in the year under report (except in the recovery of arrears on principal in agricultural societies, where there was a slight improvement). It is feared that the responsibility for this situation cannot be solely attributed to the adverse season. Co-operators have still to realize not only the necessity but also the advantage to themselves of prompt repayment. In addition, more attention might well be paid to the arrangement of loans from the point of view of making repayment easily possible on the due date. It does not appear that the supervising unions, who are primarily responsible for the upkeep of the societies' credit, have in general taken steps to check the increasing overdues, in spite of repeated Departmental advice, and the continuance of this apathy may easily result in serious financial difficulties. Exceptions to this generalization only serve to illustrate it.

Central banks

The number of central banks remained at 32 during the year. Proposals were received for the starting of more central banks in districts where financing banks already existed, but the Department saw no reason for departing from the accepted policy of centralizing the finance of each district in one central bank. The deposits by local

boards and municipalities increased by 21 per cent during the year ; the increase during the previous year was 50 per cent. The continued growth of these deposits produced, during the year under report, an agitation for the disposal of the surplus balances thereby engendered, as a result of which a considerable portion of the surpluses in the Madras Central Bank and most district banks was absorbed during the year—seemingly, with more attention to immediate results than to sound investments. During the course of this agitation it was urged in several districts that the borrowing power of existing societies should be increased and that more societies should be freely organized. But the Department, not only because of its statutory duty of fixing borrowing limits but also on general grounds, was compelled to adopt a conservative attitude. To permit the ryot to borrow up to one-fourth of his assets—which was the limit suggested as against the Department's standard of one-eighth—is, it is considered, to demand a standard of repayment beyond his power and thereby to ensure an ever-increasing accumulation of arrears. It is, in short, more important to fix the maximum borrowing power with reference to the ryot's capacity to repay than with a view to the easy disposal of surplus balances.

Local supervising unions

During the year, 20 local supervising unions, of which two were audit unions, were registered, bringing the total at the end of the year to 366 unions (including ten audit unions). There were affiliated to these unions 10,709 primary societies with a total membership of 664,653 as compared with 9,617 societies with a membership of 613,345 in the previous year. Most of the societies not yet affiliated to unions are societies organized for the benefit of the depressed classes ; the question of providing the supervision necessary for their proper working engaged attention during the year.

District federations

As in the previous year there were 19 district federations in the Presidency. Ganjām, Tanjore and Tinnevelly were the only districts without district federations, but it is hoped that these also will have some form of central union in the near future.

An important amendment in organization was made during the year. The constitution of local unions ordinarily required that in matters like the sanction of budgets and the appointment of supervisors, the approval of the Registrar should be obtained. These duties have now been delegated to the federations. This was undoubtedly an important step towards the non-officialization of the co-operative movement. Two district federations, South Kanara and Chingleput, were subsidized by the Government during the year for holding training classes for society officials, and the further development of this feature was foreshadowed by the allotment of a subsidy for the remaining federations.

Provincial union

The Madras Provincial Co-operative Union continued to publish its monthly bulletin in English and Tamil and also issued printed leaflets from time to time. The Union held training classes as usual, but the number of candidates who completed the course was only 19.

Trading societies

The activities of the trading societies were on the whole not so brisk as in the previous year, when a distinct improvement was made. The total value of purchases and sales declined from Rs. 27·93 lakhs and Rs. 45·17 lakhs, respectively, to Rs. 26·79 lakhs and Rs. 30·47 lakhs. The development of this class of society, which requires the closest attention, is said to be handicapped by the inadequacy of the Departmental staff concerned and proposals to increase the staff were under consideration.

Labour contract societies

Nine labour contract societies were registered during the year, bringing the total number in existence at the end of the year to 57. These societies are making great progress and it is clear from the volume of work entrusted to them during the year (valued at Rs. 6·68 lakhs which represents an increase of 50 per cent over the work of last year) that they have gained increasing confidence and recognition. Most of the contracts were obtained by the 12 societies in the Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts in respect of work connected with the Mettur irrigation project. There is room for a much greater development of this

type of society, as they not only help to bring employers and employees closer together by eliminating the contractor but also serve as useful agencies for providing employment for agricultural labourers in the non-agricultural season.

Land reclamation societies

There were nine reclamation societies at the end of the year, two having been registered during the year. Six hundred and fourteen acres have now been reclaimed, of which 299 acres were reclaimed during the year. The work, however, has been suspended in certain areas and in some areas abandoned altogether, the deposit of sand being so thick as to make reclamation unprofitable.

Land mortgage banks

There were 10 land mortgage banks at work but only 2 were able to do any appreciable business. These issued debentures to the total value of Rs. 1·59 lakhs during the year, some of which were taken by the Government (Rs. 62,000) and some by the public (Rs. 97,000); most of the latter were taken by a very few individuals.

Milk-supply societies

A special feature of the year was the organization of a dozen milk-supply societies in the Chingleput district, in a suburb of Madras City. The supply of pure milk by these societies should especially benefit consumers in Madras.

Irrigation societies

The possibilities of organizing power plant societies in dry areas such as the Ceded Districts were investigated during the year and rules for the grant of State aid for the purpose were framed. The Government have sanctioned an allotment of Rs. 10,000 for distribution in the year 1927-28.

Working of societies

103. A comparative statement of the progress of the working of the 31 district central banks (excluding the Madras Central Urban Bank) is given below:—

	1925-26. LAKHS. RS.	1926-27. LAKHS. RS.
Working capital	395	478
Deposits	346	423
Paid-up share capital ...	40·23	44·33
Reserve fund	10·39	12·59

It is clear from the figures that the work of these banks is steadily expanding.

Deposits accepted by the central banks from local boards and municipalities and as security deposits from local fund, abkāri, jail and forest contractors and employees of Government and local boards amounted to Rs. 138·62 lakhs as compared with Rs. 102·88 lakhs in the previous year. Deposits of individuals amounted to Rs. 157·30 lakhs. These two items together formed 62 per cent of the total working capital as compared with 59·9 per cent in the previous year. The total borrowings of the district banks from the Madras Central Urban Bank was Rs. 73·60 lakhs as against Rs. 60·87 lakhs in the previous year, forming 16 per cent as compared with 14 per cent of the total working capital.

The overdraft accommodation allowed by the Imperial Bank of India (excluding overdraft granted against Government promissory notes to the Madras Central Urban Bank and the Christian Bank) amounted to Rs. 54·31 lakhs as compared with Rs. 50·26 lakhs in the previous year. The amount actually overdrawn at the end of the year was Rs. 14·57 lakhs as compared with Rs. 4·76 lakhs in the previous year.

The profits of the central banks showed that on the whole the year was one of prosperity. With the exception of four central banks in the Ceded Districts and the South Kanara District Bank, the remaining banks were in a position to declare a maximum dividend of 9 per cent.

The percentage of balance to demand in respect of principal due to the district central banks ranged from 1·57 per cent to 65·57 per cent and was more than 50 per cent in the case of 3 banks. The collection of current interest was better, the balance being less than 5 per cent in the case of 14 banks. The balance of arrear interest however was much heavier and exceeded 50 per cent in the case of 6 banks.

During the year the Government issued definite orders fixing the standard of fluid resources to be maintained by central banks in respect of their commitments.

Although the working capital of the Madras Central Urban Bank was less than in the previous year (Rs. 129 lakhs as against Rs. 137 lakhs), the profit on the year's working was greater (Rs. 2·06 lakhs as against Rs. 1·91 lakhs). The total share capital held by the district banks was Rs. 5·94 lakhs as compared with Rs. 5·92 lakhs in the previous year. The volume of deposit transactions was comparatively smaller. Deposits by individuals fell from Rs. 58·60 lakhs to Rs. 47·59 lakhs and by local boards and municipalities etc., from Rs. 30·09 lakhs to Rs. 25·07 lakhs. Deposits and borrowings of all kinds amounted to Rs. 116·97 lakhs as against Rs. 125·82 lakhs in the previous year. The total value of loans issued by the bank during the year amounted to Rs. 58·37 lakhs (which includes Rs. 11·45 lakhs given to individuals) as compared with Rs. 24·42 lakhs in the previous year, while its total borrowings from various sources fell by Rs. 9·49 lakhs. Loans repaid to the bank remained about the same, amounting to Rs. 47·65 lakhs as against Rs. 47·44 lakhs. The total value of loans outstanding at the end of the year was Rs. 74·73 lakhs (of which only Rs. 1·12 lakhs was due from individuals) as compared with Rs. 62·94 lakhs in the previous year. The indebtedness of the primary societies to the central banks was still further reduced from Rs. ·06 lakh to Rs. ·05 lakh.

Madras Central Urban Bank

104. The number of agricultural societies of all classes increased by 1,258 to 11,436 at the close of the year.

Agricultural societies

There were 11,000 credit societies, of which 46 were on a limited liability basis. One thousand two hundred and thirty societies were registered during the year as compared with 695 in the previous year. The financial position of the societies as a whole is shown below:—

Agricultural credit societies

	1925-26. LAKHS. RS.	1926-27. LAKHS. RS.
Working capital	398·23	489·52
Paid-up share capital	48·91	58·37
Deposits	16·71	19·82
Loans from central banks ...	303·25	375·56
Loans from Government ...	6·14	8·12

It will be seen that there was progress in all respects during the year. Of the amount shown as having been borrowed from the Government, Rs. ·62 lakh relates to debentures of land mortgage banks and the remainder was borrowed by the societies for the depressed and backward classes.

The total divisible profit of all societies rose from Rs. 6·68 lakhs to Rs. 9·26 lakhs. The total unrecouped losses rose from Rs. 8·24 lakhs to Rs. 9·51 lakhs. It is to be noted that the increase in the divisible profit was considerably more than that of the previous year. Of the 10,532 societies actually at work during the year, 4,240 worked at a loss (excluding overdue interest). Including overdue interest, 1,153 societies worked at a net loss of Rs. 31 lakhs. Of these societies, 507 commenced work only during the year under report. The total value of all loans for productive and non-productive purposes and for redemption of prior debts was Rs. 236·57 lakhs. This represents an increase of Rs. 70 lakhs over the total loans of last year and is nearly double that of five years ago. It is to be observed, however, that loans for non-productive purposes and for such purposes as marriages and litigation decreased. The collection of loans due to societies showed some improvement, but the outstanding balances still remained large. The percentage of arrears of principal fell from 46 to 42. The percentage of arrear interest remained about the same (54), and the percentage of current interest increased from 38 to 41. The primary societies in the districts of Cuddapah and Chittoor, where the percentage of arrears was 82 and 75, respectively, returned the worst figures notwithstanding the favourable agricultural season, and active measures by the district federations appear to be necessary.

Societies for purchase and sale

The number of agricultural societies for purchase or for purchase and sale rose from 98 to 116 during the year. The total working capital of all the societies was Rs. 6·65 lakhs as compared with Rs. 5·38 lakhs in the previous year and their net profit and loss were Rs. 11,211 and Rs. 27,577, respectively.

There was a marked increase in the number of societies for production and sale from 5 to 16 ; 11 of these were milk supply societies. A total net profit of Rs. 3,001 was earned by 15 societies, while the 16th incurred a loss of Rs. 3,150 and thereby brought its total unrecouped loss to Rs. 17,051. Societies for production and sale

There were four cattle insurance societies at the close of the year, one having been registered during the year. It is reported that this form of co-operation is not likely to expand unless it receives a considerable impetus from the Department. Cattle insurance societies

The number of agricultural societies for purposes other than those specified above rose from 250 to 300. Most of them were societies for negotiating leases of land on behalf of the depressed classes ; these were 258 in number. Other agricultural societies

105. The total number of non-agricultural societies rose during the year from 1,073 to 1,115, of which 790 were on a limited liability basis and 225 on an unlimited liability basis. There was substantial progress in all directions as the following table shows :— Non-agricultural societies Credit societies

	1925-26.	1926-27.
Number of members ...	170,592	184,730
	Rs.	Rs.
Paid-up share capital ...	46,07,803	52,47,429
Deposits by individuals ...	88,11,139	1,03,52,148
Working capital	1,67,90,256	1,94,88,253
Net divisible profit ...	6,21,726	7,03,149

As usual, deposits by non-members (Rs. 57·30 lakhs) exceeded the deposits by members (Rs. 46·22 lakhs). Deposits by non-members increased by Rs. 7·43 lakhs, suggesting a growing public confidence even in urban societies of limited liability. The proportion of borrowings from central banks to the entire working capital again fell, from 13·07 per cent to 12·31 per cent, which means that limited liability credit societies are gradually developing their own resources. The percentage of arrears remaining uncollected by all the societies was about the same as in the previous year in the case of principal (17·55 per cent) and current interest (16·49 per cent) but in the case of arrear interest it increased slightly, from 46·24 to 48·94 per cent.

Thrift societies

Fifty-eight societies on a thrift basis, mainly consisting of Adi-Andhras in the districts of Gōdāvari West, Kistna and Kurnool, accumulated savings in the shape of share capital amounting to Rs. 24,344, most of which was invested. Other societies of this class were 115 societies in South Kanara district for field labourers and fishermen.

Societies for purchase, production and sale Co-operative stores and other trading societies

The number of credit societies for purchase, for purchase and sale or for production and sale increased during the year from 169 to 206, as also the number of co-operative stores, from 108 to 143. The number of weavers' societies (52) remained the same. The total working capital of the stores increased slightly, but the net divisible profits fell. The net divisible profit of the weavers' societies increased.

Other non-agricultural societies

In addition there were 180 other non-agricultural societies, as compared with 154 in the previous year. Most of these were building societies (109) which showed considerable progress during the year.

Societies for backward classes

106. The co-operative movement has gained increasing popularity among the depressed and backward classes. There were 1,872 societies at the beginning of the year; 215 societies were organized during year, bringing the total number to 2,087. Of these, 796 were under the direct supervision of the Co-operative Department, while the remaining 1,291 societies were in charge of the Labour Department. In addition, there were 314 societies in the Madura and Tanjore districts working in connection with the reclamation of the Kallar tribe under the direction of special officers.

The share capital of the 796 societies in charge of the Co-operative Department, with a membership of 27,690, amounted to Rs. 1·88 lakhs. Members' deposits amounted to Rs. 11,177 and loans from central banks and non-members to Rs. 6,74,567.

Some of these societies obtained lands on lease or otherwise for cultivation by their members. At the end of the year 30,115 acres of land were held, mainly on lease, as compared with 26,043 acres in the previous year. A new class of society launched during the year was the colonization

society, of which there were six. Certain disforested lands in the Coimbatore district have been assigned to them and they were granted loans to the extent of Rs. 5,000 for the purchase of agricultural requisites. The progress of these societies is being watched with interest.

Criminal tribes.

The five societies specially organized for certain criminal tribes had a paid-up share capital of Rs. 5,154 with a membership of 477.

Societies for municipal employees (inferior).

There were at the end of the year 47 societies exclusively for the inferior staff of municipalities, such as scavengers, with a membership of 5,333 and a paid-up share capital of Rs. 54,490. The societies made joint purchases of cloth, food stuff and other domestic requirements to the value of Rs. 61,951 and effected savings amounting to Rs. 1,341.

Agency tracts.

The number of societies for the depressed classes in the Agency tracts increased from 24 to 27 during the year. The membership and the paid-up share capital rose to 6,547 and Rs. 31,348 respectively. In addition there were two unregistered societies in the Agency tracts, 76 societies for hill tribes in the Nilgiris and other places and 80 societies for fishermen.

Reserve fund.

107. The total reserve fund of all societies will amount to Rs. 68·54 lakhs as compared with Rs. 56·50 lakhs in the previous year after contributions to reserve have been made in accordance with the audit orders on the accounts for the year. The sum is distributed as follows:—

	1925-26. RS.	1926-27. RS.
Madras Central Urban Bank (Provincial Bank)	6,00,000	7,00,000
District central banks	10,38,990	12,58,851
Agricultural primary societies ...	27,00,689	33,31,184
Non-agricultural primary societies.	13,10,435	15,63,614
Total ...	56,50,114	68,53,649

The whole of the reserve fund of the Madras Central Urban Bank is invested in Government promissory notes. All district banks are now investing their entire reserve fund in the Madras Central Urban Bank and the primary societies in the district banks. The total reserve of all societies

has increased by 21·28 and their total working capital by 17·79 per cent ; the respective percentages for the previous year were 20·60 and 12·20.

Supervision

108. Supervising and audit unions increased from 346 to 366 during the year (excluding 3 propagandist unions and 19 district federations). Of the 12,400 primary societies actually at work, 10,709 societies were affiliated to unions as compared with 9,617 in the previous year. Most of the un-affiliated societies were, as usual, in charge of the Labour Department. The total receipts of all district federations and supervising and audit unions was Rs. 4·47 lakhs and the expenditure Rs. 3·14 lakhs. The amount payable to the supervision fund by all societies was Rs. 2·98 lakhs, of which a sum of Rs. 1·75 lakhs was collected. The expenditure on account of the supervision of primary societies is rising year by year and amounted to 43 per cent of the total expenditure by Government during the year under report as compared with 35·65 per cent in the previous year.

Litigation

109. The heavy increase in the previous year in the number of suits instituted in civil courts (1,315) was maintained during the year under report (1,321). Twenty-one thousand five hundred and twenty-four arbitration references were also preferred under the rules framed under the Act, as compared with 19,991 in the previous year. Twenty-three criminal prosecutions were initiated during the year.

Liquidation

110. The registration of 71 societies was cancelled during the year, of which 44 were agricultural credit societies. Two hundred and fifty-eight societies were under liquidation at the close of the year.

Miscellaneous

111. Two important amendments to the rules framed under the Act were made during the year. The first, which has long been needed, authorizes the levy of audit fees on societies that have not affiliated themselves to any supervising or audit agency or that do not have their accounts audited by a public certified accountant or auditor. The second amendment prescribes the fluid resources to

be maintained when one society gives a cash credit to another society. A third amendment relating to arbitration references was under consideration at the end of the year. The 15th Provincial Co-operative Conference was held in 1927 and district co-operative conferences were held in various districts. In addition, several joint conferences were held at which officers of the Agricultural, Industries, Veterinary and Educational departments gave technical advice and instructive lectures.

LOCAL BOARDS ADMINISTRATION (1926–27)

[*Statistical Abstract for British India—District and Local Boards*].

General District boards

112. The total number of district boards in the Presidency was the same as in the previous year, viz., 24. The Nilgiri district board was the only board whose president was not a non-official. The privilege of electing the president was enjoyed by 18 district boards as compared with 15 in the previous year. The total sanctioned strength of the boards was 930. The actual strength at the close of the year including ex-officio members was 893, of whom 207 were nominated by the Government and 576 elected by the taluk boards. The district boards held in all 225 meetings during the year, two of which were adjourned.

Taluk boards

The total number of taluk boards in the Presidency was 129, as in the previous year. One hundred and nine of these boards themselves elected their non-official presidents, and of the remaining 9 boards all except one were presided over by non-officials. The sanctioned strength of the taluk boards increased from 2,394 to 2,499. Their actual membership at the close of the year was 2,255, of whom 545 members were nominated by the Government and 1,710 elected. Elections were held during the year to fill 289 seats ; at those which were contested (189), about 55 per cent of the electors voted. The taluk boards held 1,072 meetings during the year, 15 of which were adjourned for want of a quorum and 6 for want of time or other reasons.

Union boards

There were 469 union boards. Their actual strength at the close of the year was 4,933, consisting of 3,795 elected, 1,137 nominated and one ex-officio members.

Taxes

Under the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, the levy of land cess at the rate of one anna in the rupee of the annual rent value is obligatory. An additional cess up to a maximum of 3 pies in the rupee was levied during the year by 19 district boards and 92 taluk boards. The profession tax was levied by 65 taluk boards and the companies' tax by 21 boards. As in previous years, these two taxes were collected with difficulty. The education cess for the expansion of elementary education was levied during the year by 92 taluk boards. The Nilgiri district board levied the cess in the whole of the area under its jurisdiction and the Malabar district board in the area under the jurisdiction of the old Wynaad taluk board. Tolls on carriages, carts and animals were collected in all districts. House-tax was levied in all unions.

Finance—Receipts

113. The aggregate balance at the beginning of the year was Rs. 78·8 lakhs. The total receipts (both ordinary and capital) amounted to Rs. 362·8 lakhs as compared with Rs. 334·7 lakhs in the previous year. The grants received from Provincial funds amounted to Rs. 96·1 lakhs. Of this sum, Rs. 1·5 lakhs was in aid of the general resources of the boards, Rs. 17·1 lakhs for the upkeep of trunk roads, Rs. 52·8 lakhs for education and Rs. 2·3 lakhs for the maintenance of hospitals and dispensaries. Special Government grants amounting to Rs. 5·0 lakhs for the improvement of village communications and of the water-supply in rural areas were distributed among local boards during the year. The total sum expended from this grant before the close of the year was Rs. 3·2 lakhs.

Expenditure

114. The total expenditure (both ordinary and capital), was Rs. 360·7 lakhs as compared with Rs. 327·4 lakhs in 1925-26, and the aggregate closing balance was Rs. 80·9 lakhs.

Communications

The total outlay on communications amounted to Rs. 135·1 lakhs (as against Rs. 125·4 lakhs in the previous year) of which Rs. 34·3 lakhs was met

from Provincial grants. Seven hundred and thirty-six miles of new roads were constructed during the year. The total length of roads maintained by the boards at the close of the year was 26,533 miles, of which 2,857 miles were trunk roads.

Education

The number of secondary and elementary schools maintained by all the boards during the year was 159 and 12,705 respectively. In addition, one district board maintained a Sanskrit College. The strength of the elementary schools was 694,538. There were 11,823 pupils on the rolls of the elementary department of the board secondary schools and 21,662 pupils in the secondary department. The total expenditure incurred on education during the year was Rs. 93·0 lakhs, of which the Government contributed Rs. 52·0 lakhs, while the income from fees and other receipts amounted to Rs. 12·0 lakhs. The net amount contributed by local boards was Rs. 29·0 lakhs.

Medical relief

The local boards maintained 97 hospitals and 562 dispensaries as compared with 98 hospitals and 488 dispensaries in 1925-26. The total number of in-patients who received treatment at the hospitals and dispensaries increased from 20,889 to 26,206 and that of the out-patients from 5,559,906 to 6,125,081. The aggregate cost of maintaining these institutions amounted to Rs. 18·5 lakhs.

Vaccination

115. The 489 vaccinators employed by the local boards performed 1,247,429 successful vaccinations during the year, representing a ratio of approximately 35 per mille of the total population of the Presidency. The total expenditure on preventive medicine, including water-supply and sanitation, was Rs. 12·3 lakhs as compared with Rs. 12·6 lakhs in the previous year.

Railways

116. Railways owned by the district boards were at work during the year in six districts in the Presidency, viz., Tanjore, Coimbatore, Guntūr, Salem, Kistna and Tinnevelly. The total capital outlay up to the end of the year, excluding the Kistna district railway, was Rs. 131·8 lakhs.

Coimbatore — The gross earnings of the Pōdanūr-Pollachi Railway (25 miles) amounted to Rs. 4·9 lakhs and the working expenses to Rs. 2·9 lakhs. The net earnings were thus Rs. 2 lakhs, representing a return of 12 per cent on the capital outlay as comgared with 13·2 per cent in the previous year.

Tanjore — The net earnings of the Tanjore District Board Railway (131 miles) increased from Rs. 5·2 lakhs to Rs. 5·6 lakhs and represented approximately 7 per cent of the capital outlay as compared with 7·6 per cent in 1925-26.

Salem — The net earnings of the Salem-Suramangalam Railway (3·9 miles) decreased from Rs. 0·7 lakh to Rs. 0·6 lakh, being equivalent to roughly 10·9 per cent of the capital outlay as against 13·2 per cent in the previous year.

Tinnevelly — The gross earnings of the Tinnevelly-Tiruchendur Railway (38 miles) amounted to Rs. 5·2 lakhs and the working expenses to Rs. 2·8 lakhs. The net earnings were thus Rs. 2·4 lakhs or 9·5 per cent of the capital outlay as compared with 10·2 per cent in 1925-26.

Guntūr — The net earnings of the Tenali-Repalle Railway (21 miles) were Rs. 1·3 lakhs, representing a return of 8·6 per cent on the total capital outlay as against 7·9 per cent in the previous year.

NOTE.—With the exception of statements of the total number of boards in the Presidency, the figures given in this section do not include the Kistna district board with its 11 taluk and 41 union boards, the figures relating to which were not received before going to press.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION—MUFASSAL (1926-27)

[*Statistical Abstract for British India—Municipalities*]

General — 117. The number of municipal councils actually at work during the year was 80, as in 1925-26. The total sanctioned number of seats on these councils was 1,736, of which 1,704 were occupied at the close of the year. Of the 1,704 councillors, 1,291 were elected by the rate-payers and 413 appointed by the Government. There were European members on 31 councils. The councils

held 2,218 meetings as compared with 2,171 in the previous year. One hundred and eighty-three meetings were adjourned for want of a quorum and 99 for other reasons. The average attendance of members at meetings increased from 61·8 per cent to 62·3 per cent of the sanctioned strength. Of the 473 elections held during the year, 322 were contested ; nearly 69 per cent of the electorate voted at these elections.

Finance - Receipts

118. The aggregate opening balance was Rs. 36·2 lakhs as compared with Rs. 36·7 lakhs last year. Current receipts (both ordinary and capital) excluding the opening balance, amounted to Rs. 200 lakhs as compared with Rs. 163 lakhs in 1925-26. Of the receipts, Rs. 37 lakhs was derived from taxes. The average incidence of taxation per head of population was Rs. 2-6-4 as against Rs. 2-3-3 for the previous year. Grants from provincial funds for the maintenance of services amounted to Rs. 10·9 lakhs as against Rs. 11·7 lakhs in 1925-26. Of this, Rs. 8·8 lakhs was paid for education, Rs. 1·8 lakhs for roads and Rs. 0·2 lakh for medical relief. Further grants from provincial funds amounting to Rs. 11·4 lakhs were paid to the councils during the year towards the cost of capital works, as compared with Rs. 12·2 lakhs in the previous year ; of this amount, Rs. 10·9 lakhs represented grants for works connected with water-supply. Loans amounting to Rs. 23·4 lakhs were advanced by the Government during the year as compared with Rs. 7·2 lakhs in the previous year. The Coimbatore municipal council borrowed Rs. 8·4 lakhs for works connected with its water-supply scheme and the municipal council of Madura borrowed Rs. 1·5 lakhs for drainage works. The Cocanada, Bezwada and Madura municipal councils took loans of Rs. 2 lakhs, Rs. 2·5 lakhs and Rs. 4·5 lakhs, respectively, for electric lighting schemes, while the Salem municipal council raised a loan of Rs. 0·97 lakh for the construction of College buildings and the Bezwada municipal council a loan of Rs. 0·71 lakh for the construction of a bridge. Several other municipal councils borrowed smaller sums for various purposes.

Expenditure

119. The total expenditure (both ordinary and capital) amounted to Rs. 189·3 lakhs as compared with Rs. 163·6 lakhs in the previous year. The expenditure on communications was Rs. 27·9 lakhs, of which Rs. 15·04 lakhs was spent on the maintenance of roads and Rs. 6·3 lakhs on lighting.

Communications

Water-supply and drainage.

During the year the execution of water-supply schemes in two municipalities was completed and the construction of three new water-supply schemes was in progress. Schemes for the improvement and extension of water works in ten municipalities and of drainage systems in two municipalities were also in progress. Proceedings for the acquisition of land for the purpose of opening conservancy lanes as a preliminary to the installation of a drainage system were continued in the Kumbakōnam municipality. The total expenditure in connection with water-supply and drainage schemes, including expenditure on capital works, amounted to Rs. 40·2 lakhs as compared with Rs. 32·6 lakhs in 1925-26. Of this expenditure, a sum of Rs. 10·9 lakhs was met from grants from provincial funds and Rs. 1·7 lakhs from loans advanced by the Government.

Medical relief

Municipal councils maintained altogether 135 medical institutions in which 27,374 in-patients and 2,884,446 out-patients received treatment during the year. The total expenditure incurred by municipal councils on medical relief was Rs. 8·6 lakhs. The expenditure on sanitation was Rs. 21·4 lakhs.

Education

There were 1,404 elementary schools under the management of municipal councils as compared with 1,352 in the previous year. The number of municipal secondary schools fell from 51 to 50, and one municipal council continued to maintain a college. The total expenditure on elementary education was Rs. 15·5 lakhs, of which Rs. 7·3 lakhs was met from Government grants and Rs. 5·8 lakhs from general municipal funds. The total expenditure incurred on secondary education amounted to Rs. 10·5 lakhs, of which Rs. 1·8 lakhs was defrayed by subsidies from provincial funds.

Closing balance and debt

The aggregate closing balance of the year, including both ordinary and capital, was Rs. 46·5 lakhs as compared with Rs. 36·2 lakhs at the close of the previous year. The balance of provincial loans outstanding against the municipal councils at the end of the year rose from Rs. 51·3 lakhs to Rs. 71·95 lakhs.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION—CITY OF MADRAS (1926-27)

[*Administration Report of the Corporation of Madras for 1926-27; Statistical Abstract for British India—Municipalities*]

Finance

120. The total revenue derived from all sources during the year amounted to Rs. 56,20,764 as compared with Rs. 55,12,798 in 1925-26, thus showing an increase of Rs. 1,07,966; the opening balance was Rs. 10,18,297 and the closing balance Rs. 8,86,698. The principal heads of revenue were municipal rates and taxes, amounting to Rs. 37,82,560, and municipal fees and miscellaneous items, totalling Rs. 18,38,204, as against Rs. 40,33,826 and Rs. 14,78,972, respectively, in the previous year. The incidence of taxation per head of population including all taxes and tolls was Rs. 7-2-5 as compared with Rs. 7-10-6 in the previous year. The Corporation received from Government during the year a free grant of Rs. 4,00,000 and a loan of Rs. 4,00,000 for the improvement of water-supply and drainage. The debt at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 135·28 lakhs and the sinking fund for the various loans, exclusive of Government loans repayable in instalments, to Rs. 30·48 lakhs, of which Rs. 30·19 lakhs was in Government securities and Madras municipal debentures and Rs. 28,972 in cash. Payments amounting to Rs. 7·96 lakhs were made during the year towards the repayment of Government loans (Rs. 76½ lakhs).

Works

121. The total amount expended on works during the year amounted to Rs. 29·16 lakhs as against Rs. 33·49 lakhs in the previous year. Of this sum, Rs. 13·95 lakhs was spent on new works,

Rs. 13·50 lakhs on repairs and Rs. 1·71 lakhs on establishment and miscellaneous charges.

Communications

The total expenditure on general improvements in the communications of the city was Rs. 61,276 and on repairs Rs. 4·97 lakhs, as against Rs. 67,074 and 6·26 lakhs, respectively, in the previous year. One mile and 3½ furlongs of roads were metalled for the first time and 49·15 miles of roads were reformed. Four miles and 7 furlongs of roads were tarred for the first time and 5 miles and 2 furlongs were re-tarred. The total length of tarred roads in the city at the end of the year was 41 miles and 2½ furlongs.

Buildings

The total expenditure on new buildings was Rs. 2·73 lakhs and on repairs to buildings Rs. 63,966, as compared with Rs. 2·97 lakhs and Rs. 60,742, respectively, in the previous year. The works carried out during the year were the construction of flush-out latrines, bathing fountains, and houses for the poor. The works in progress last year and completed during the year under report were the laying of sewers in Egmore Cheri, the construction of 30 houses for the poor in Cochrane Basin Road and of 30 model houses in Jagannadhapuram and Lloyd's roads. Model houses in Krishnampet Hutting ground, Palmyra Kuppam and Samy Reddi Cheri were in process of construction.

The amount spent on the Mambalam town-planning scheme during the year was Rs. 1·09 lakhs. About 4 miles of roads have been metalled and Mambalam is now easily accessible from other parts of the city. To attract settlers, the average size of building plots has been reduced and proposals made to revise the original Mambalam eastern section scheme by increasing the total number of building plots from 1,616 to 4,000.

Drainage

A total amount of Rs. 9·80 lakhs was expended on new drainage works and Rs. 3·46 lakhs on maintenance. Work was considerably curtailed during the second half of the year by reason of the uncertainty of funds. The total length of sewers laid during the year was only 76,190 feet, which is little more than one-half of the work done last year (125,556 feet). One hundred and sixty house

connections to the sewers were constructed during the year.

Water-supply

Expenditure on new works amounted to Rs. 70,584 as compared with Rs. 16,747 last year, and Rs. 3·85 lakhs was spent on maintenance work. The quantity of water supplied during the year was 6,223·5 million gallons, which is equivalent to nearly 32·4 gallons per head per day. Nine hundred and thirty-nine new house connections were laid by licensed plumbers and 2,434 were repaired, renewed or extended; the total number of house-service connections in the city at the close of the year was 34,834. At the end of the year there were in the city 2,272 fountains, 83 cattle troughs and 94 bathing fountains, of which 78 fountains, one cattle trough and 19 bathing fountains were erected during the year under report. Owing to the failure of the monsoon, steps were taken in December to restrict water-supply and to stop it altogether for irrigation purposes. The quantity of water taken from the Red Hills lake during the year was 1,067,705,064 cubic feet as against 944,169,507 cubic feet last year. The water level at the lake at the end of March 1927 was 37·29 feet, the lowest on record for the last 22 years. Chlorination of the supply was found necessary during the year and was carried out at the Kilpauk filter beds up to the end of the year, and since then, in order to be more effective, at the Red Hills lake, where a special plant has been erected.

Education

122. The total number of schools under the control of the Corporation rose from 78 to 94, of which 44 are located in Corporation buildings and the rest, including the 12 new schools opened during the year, in rented buildings. Steps are being taken to acquire sites for the construction of buildings to locate those schools now working in rented buildings. Night schools were held in 40 of the Corporation schools. The number of pupils on the rolls on 31st March 1927 was 18,183 (11,777 boys and 6,406 girls) as compared with 15,045 (10,322 boys and 4,723 girls) in the previous year. The children were medically examined from time to time. The articles prepared by the pupils of the Corporation schools were exhibited during

the Health Exhibition for the year 1926-27, and in appreciation of the excellence of the exhibits a gold medal was awarded to the Corporation.

The expenditure on education during the year amounted to Rs. 3·97 lakhs as against Rs. 2·94 lakhs in the preceding year. A sum of Rs. 2,41,200 was contributed from Corporation funds to the Education fund. The education tax was raised from ¼ per cent in 1925-26 to ¾ per cent during the year under report and realized a total amount of Rs. 1·40 lakhs. A grant of Rs. 26,260 was received from the Government for the maintenance of the 12 Muhammadan boys' schools and 2 Muhammadan girls' schools transferred to the management of the Corporation. Sixteen schools were opened during the year by the Corporation in rented buildings.

Sanitation and medical services

123. Expenditure on sanitation amounted to Rs. 8·92 lakhs and the maintenance of the Corporation hospitals cost Rs. 2·52 lakhs. Contributions amounting to Rs. 23,760 were paid to hospitals and dispensaries. The total number of patients treated was 639,486 as compared with 628,904 in the preceding year. The total number of persons vaccinated was 26,285 as against 77,702 in the previous year, the marked decrease being due to the absence of epidemic conditions during the year. 22,000 births and 23,776 deaths were registered during the year.

Anti-malarial operations

A special staff was engaged during the year in general anti-malarial operations. The operations included the cleaning and treatment by petrol of all drains, cess-pools, silt traps, public tanks and wells, the introduction of fish into tanks and wells, and the removal of prickly-pear and rank vegetation.

Miscellaneous

On 31st March 1927, there were 9,374 electric lights in use in the city as against 8,878 last year. In addition to the lighting of streets, ornamental posts were fixed on important bridges in the city, around temple tanks and in certain parks. The expenditure on electric lighting during the year amounted to Rs. 3·47 lakhs, of which Rs. 2·82 lakhs was spent on maintenance. Expenditure on public parks amounted to

Rs. 36,900. The cost of maintaining the fire-engines was Rs. 32,191. There were 103 fire-calls during the year as against 77 in the previous year, but the engines were required to work only in 51 cases.

MILITARY—AUXILIARY AND TERRITORIAL FORCES (1926-27)

124. The total strength of the twelve Auxiliary Force units in the Madras Military District on 31st March 1927 was 6,240. Over 65 per cent of the personnel attended the annual camps held during the year. Several units sent representative teams to the meeting held by the South India Rifle Association and met with considerable success. The Internal Security and Defence Post schemes were rehearsed in conjunction with regular troops. Auxiliary Force

The total strength of the five Indian Territorial Force units on 31st March 1927 was 2,650. The annual training camps were well attended. Indian Territorial Force

MARINE (1926-27)

[*Reports of the Madras Port Trust, the Madras Port Fund, the Tuticorin Port Fund and the Madras Port Department for the year 1926-27*]

125. In spite of the abnormal factors affecting trade that prevailed during the year, the result of working the Madras Harbour was on the whole satisfactory. These abnormal factors were the deficiency of the later rains, which spoiled the promise of the earlier rains of good export crops; the abnormal and bumper American cotton crop, which appreciably reduced the foreign demand for Indian cotton; and the coal strike in England, which tightened the cost of freights and, together with the indifferent rains, affected the export of groundnut. **Madras Port Trust** General

The gross receipts of the Madras Port Trust, amounting to Rs. 37,39,364, were the largest on record. As compared with last year, which were also the largest then on record, there was an increase of Rs. 2,26,503. The working expenses, including interest on capital, amortization of Finance

debt and contributions to capital, amounted to Rs. 33,06,674 or 89·2 per cent of the gross receipts, as compared with Rs. 30,88,982 or 87·9 per cent in the previous year. The net result of the working for the year was a surplus of Rs. 4,32,690. The balance of loans due to the Secretary of State for India in Council amounted to Rs. 1,38,24,021 at the close of the year. A sum of Rs. 66,528 was contributed during the year towards the sinking fund for repaying the sterling loan of £330,000 raised in the London market in 1923. The total amount of Government securities standing to the credit of the sinking fund at the end of the year was Rs. 3,58,600.

Traffic

The number of vessels that entered the harbour again increased, from 717 in the year 1925-26 to 795 in 1926-27, while the total net registered tonnage increased from 2,462,297 to 2,609,935 tons. The size of vessels using this port continues to increase, the average tonnage this year being 3,573 as compared with 3,498 in the previous year. Passenger traffic also increased ; 84,592 passengers arrived at and 140,799 left the port during the year, making a total of 225,391 as against 174,671 in the previous year.

Trade

The total tonnage of imports and exports during the year amounted to 1,133,412 tons. This shows a fall of 2·27 per cent from the record tonnage of the previous year. Eliminating coal, however—the imports of which fell by 15 per cent —the total tonnage amounted to 887,173, a record against the 869,776 tons of the previous year. The total value of the trade of the port amounted to Rs. 4,293 lakhs as against Rs. 4,176 lakhs in the previous year.

Imports

The tonnage of imports amounted to 843,904 tons, a fall of 1·58 per cent from last year's record of 857,441 tons. There was an appreciable decrease in the imports of coal, kerosene oil and rice, counterbalanced to some extent by the increased imports of iron, Australian timber and mineral oils other than kerosene.

Exports

Exports also decreased, the total tonnage being 289,508 tons as against 302,393 tons in the previous year. The export of cotton fell by 36·2 per cent,

from 25,813 tons in the previous year to 16,472 tons. This was due to the fall in the price of American cotton following a bumper cotton crop in America, combined with the restriction of manufacturing activities caused by the coal strike in England. The export of ores also fell appreciably. The export of groundnut, which formed 56 per cent of the total exports of the port, increased only slightly and far less than was anticipated.

Works

Several original and repair works were in progress during the year. The construction of the new deep-water quay for which an estimate had already been sanctioned was commenced during the year.

Substantial progress was made in the laying of the mass concrete on the new breakwater, the construction of which is now almost complete. Sub-station " B " and the five electric cranes on the west quay were erected and tested during the year and have since been brought into use.

The new rubble stone revetment was almost completed during the year. The suction dredger " Madras," which was extensively overhauled last year, has worked satisfactorily both in maintenance and in capital dredging.

There were eight accidents during the year but no serious damage to shipping was caused.

The fire service in the port was reorganized during the year.

Madras Port Fund

126. The ordinary receipts of the Port Fund were Rs. 2,29,284 and the ordinary charges Rs. 2,29,131, as against Rs. 2,22,325 and Rs. 1,60,923 respectively in the previous year. The increase was due to a rise in port dues, due in its turn to the increase in the number and tonnage of vessels using the port. The large increase in expenditure falls under the two main heads, " establishment " and " supplies and services." The increase in " establishment " was due partly to the revision of pay and the reorganization of the office and partly to the transfer of the men hitherto paid from contingencies (such as the crew of the tug) to the regular establishment. The large increase under " supplies and services " was due to the purchase

of heavier moorings and larger buoys of Admiralty pattern and to the adjustment during the year of a portion of the cost of overhauling the tug "Thruster."

Tuticorin Port Trust

Finance

127. The total receipts during the year were Rs. 3,27,187 as against Rs. 4,09,512 in the previous year. The decrease of Rs. 82,325 was due to a fall in imports and exports and also to an adjustment of the cost of repairs of the dredger "Manar." The working expenses of the year amounted to Rs. 2,73,747 as against Rs. 4,60,894 in the previous year, the decrease being due chiefly to a lesser expenditure as compared with last year on the dredging of the approach channel. A sum of Rs. 96,097 was paid as interest on loans during the year. The balance of loans outstanding on 1st April 1927 was Rs. 22,56,541. A loan of Rs. 9 lakhs budgeted for during the year was not taken.

Traffic

The number of vessels that entered the port was 869, with a net registered tonnage of 1,016,960 tons. This marks a decrease of 154 vessels and 13,009 tons respectively as compared with the previous year, but it is to be noted that that year's tonnage was the largest on record since 1913. The total value of the trade of the port during the year amounted to Rs. 10,08,57,645 as compared with Rs. 13,57,64,146 in the previous year. The decrease of Rs. 3 crores was due principally to a decrease in foreign exports and coasting imports. 44,043 passengers arrived at the port during the year and 56,345 passengers left the port; there was an increase of 12½ per cent over the figures of last year. Nearly all these passengers were proceeding to or returning from Ceylon.

Imports and exports

The total tonnage of imports was 237,215 tons and of exports 137,007 tons, making a total tonnage of 374,222 tons as compared with 432,843 tons in the previous year. The principal imports were grain, piece-goods, gunnies, coal and machinery and the principal exports were raw cotton, tea, fibre, cattle, sheep and goats, onions and dry fish.

Works

The harbour dipper dredger "St. George" continued the dredging of the turning basin which has been formed under the scheme for the new harbour works. The protective embankment

was completed during the course of the year. Preparatory reclamation work proceeded in connection with the construction of the dry dock. The dredger "Manar" was engaged in dredging the approach channel.

Tuticorin Port Fund

128. A sum of Rs. 1,18,867 was collected in port dues during the year as against Rs. 1,24,368 in the previous year. The total receipts of the port fund amounted to Rs. 1,87,653 and the charges to Rs. 2,16,665, as against Rs. 1,95,978 and Rs. 1,07,787 in the previous year. The increase in expenditure was mainly due to the transfer of Rs. 1 lakh from the balance of the Port Fund to the Port Trust Fund. This transaction, together with the deposit of Rs. 50,000 in Government securities, reduced the cash balance at the beginning of the year from Rs. 1,02,845 to Rs. 23,833 at the end of the year.

Port Department Vizagapatam

129. The dredger "Vizagapatam" commenced dredging towards the close of the year but had done little work before she was stranded. She was refloated and towed to Calcutta for repairs. The cut so far made is gradually silting up.

Minor ports

The following are the seven chief minor ports, according to the value of trade, administered by the Port Department:—Cochin, Calicut, Cocanada, Mangalore, Negapatam, Cuddalore and Cannanore.

The total value of sea-borne trade of the ports in the Presidency, excluding Tuticorin but including the major port of Vizagapatam, was Rs. 38·38 crores as against Rs. 40·02 crores in the previous year.

15,302 vessels with a total tonnage of 6,531,510 tons entered these ports during the year, as against 16,214 vessels with a total tonnage of 6,279,484 tons in the previous year.

Various works were executed during the year by civil officers, the Public Works Department and the Harbour Engineer-in-Chief's Department.

The receipts of the Port and Marine funds amounted to Rs. 25·02 lakhs and the expenditure to Rs. 23·69 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 35·59 lakhs and Rs. 26·28 lakhs in the previous year. The decrease under receipts is due to a decrease in loans taken by the Department, which amounted to Rs. 4½ lakhs as compared with Rs. 15½ lakhs in

the previous year. The expenditure includes about Rs. 13¼ lakhs spent on harbour works at the various ports. The closing balance amounted to Rs. 11·19 lakhs in cash and Rs. 44·92 lakhs in Government securities.

The total number of wrecks and casualties reported from outports, except Tuticorin, was 11, as compared with 39 in the previous year. Three boat accidents occurred during the year, one at Gopālpūr which involved no loss of life, and two at Bimlipatam where thirteen persons were drowned.

Mortality from Wild Animals and Snakes (1926)

[*Annual statement of the mortality caused by wild animals and snakes and the measures adopted for the destruction of wild animals during the calendar year 1926*]

Mortality

Wild animals

Snakes

130. The number of persons killed by wild animals during the year was 424 as compared with 452 in the previous year. The largest number of deaths, chiefly from tigers, occurred as usual in the Vizagapatam and Ganjām districts. The number of persons who died from snake bite was 967, an increase over last year's figure of 895 ; there were over 90 deaths from snake bite in each of the Chittoor, South Arcot and Trichinopoly districts.

Destruction and rewards

131. Four hundred and forty-six animals were destroyed during the year, of which 75 were tigers and 371 were classed under the panther category. The number destroyed in the previous year was 566 ; there was thus a marked decrease in destruction during the year under report. Rewards amounting to Rs. 9,292 were paid for the destruction of these animals as compared with Rs. 14,036 in the previous year.

Arms, Explosives and Sulphur Licences (1926)

[*Report on the working of the Indian Arms and Explosives Act and on the transactions in sulphur*]

Arms Act

132. The number of licences in force during 1926 under the Indian Arms Act and the rules made thereunder was 71,966 as compared with

71,030 in the previous year. These licences covered the possession of 2,113 rifled arms, 64,695 smooth-bore guns, 4,970 revolvers and pistols and 2,128 weapons of other descriptions. Most of these licences were for the possession of arms and ammunition and for going armed, either for sport, protection or display (54,373 licences) or for the destruction of wild animals that do injury to crops or cattle (16,368 licences). The remaining licences were mostly for the manufacture of or trade in arms and ammunition.

Explosives Act

The number of licences issued during the year under the Explosives Act was 9,631 as compared with 15,656 in the year 1925. The decrease occurred chiefly in the districts of Coimbatore (3,679), Madura (1,895) and Trichinopoly (434) where large numbers of licences had been granted in the previous year. Of these licences, 5,737 were for the possession of gunpowder or other explosives required for blasting purposes and 2,186 for the possession and sale of explosives.

Prosecutions

During the year, 669 prosecutions were instituted for offences under the Arms Act and the Explosives Act, of which 589 resulted in conviction. These figures show an increase over those of the previous year, when the prosecutions numbered 511 and the convictions 419. As in the previous year, there were many more prosecutions in the Coimbatore district (215) than in any other district.

Illicit manufacture

One of these prosecutions was for the illicit manufacture of firearms; two blacksmiths in the Chingleput district were found to have manufactured muzzle-loading guns without a licence.

Sulphur

There was again a slight increase in the number of sulphur licences in force, from 308 in the year 1925 to 324 in the year under report; of this number, 289 were old licences and 35 new licences. There was also an increase in the total quantity of sulphur for which licences were issued, from 735 tons in 1925 to 901 tons in 1926.

CHAPTER IV

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

AGRICULTURE (1926-27)

[*Report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture for the year 1926-27; Statistical Abstract for British India—Agricultural Statistics*]

General

133. The year is noticeable for two outstanding events. The first was the opening by His Excellency the Governor of the new Freeman Buildings at the Coimbatore College, when the jubilee of agricultural education in the Presidency was celebrated. The second was the visit of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, appointed to examine agricultural conditions in India and to make recommendations for their improvement. Members of the Commission visited the Research Institute and Farm at Coimbatore and the Cattle Farm at Hosūr and recorded evidence both at Coimbatore and Madras.

Agricultural education

134. The Agricultural College, Coimbatore, and two agricultural middle schools continued to be maintained by the Agricultural Department during the year. Forty new students were selected and admitted to the Agricultural College. Formerly the admissions were restricted to 20, but this year, with the facilities provided by the opening of the new Freeman Building, it was found possible to double the number. The results of the examination for the degree of B.Sc. in Agriculture were satisfactory; although there were no first classes, only one out of 27 candidates failed. The progress of the two agricultural middle schools, which are still in the experimental stage, was less satisfactory. The school at Anakāpalle has not proved a success. It has been found

difficult to get students in spite of propaganda work and touring by the headmaster. As a result, proposals to close this particular school were under consideration. It is not, however, proposed to abandon the experiment altogether, more especially as the other school at Taliparamba has, during the year under report, at last showed signs of becoming popular ; the opening of two similar schools was under consideration, one of which has since been sanctioned.

135. The research work carried on by the Department continued to be of two kinds ; that done by the specialists at Coimbatore, where they are equipped with laboratories and special stations, and that done on the agricultural experiment stations in the districts. These two lines of work are inter-dependent; the discoveries of the laboratory are tested on the farm. Research work was as usual concentrated on paddy and cotton, but other crops, such as sugarcane, dry grains and coconuts, also received attention. Research

The study of paddy was carried on in the four breeding stations, of which the principal is at Coimbatore, and is both economic and academic. The economic side is concerned not only with the multiplication and trial of improved strains by selection but also with improvements in cultivation and manuring. It is encouraging to observe that the ryots are willing to take advantage of the results of this research work and to use the new strains evolved. At Adutural, for example, where one of the three paddy-breeding sub-stations is located, the demand for seeds of improved strains was more than twelve times the amount which the station was able to supply. The popularity which in fact these stations now enjoy has created a problem in regard to seed supply in the future which is engaging the serious attention of the Department. Paddy

The academic study of paddy aims at the combination of desirable characters into a single new variety by means of hybridization in the light of the Mendelian theory of inheritance. One of its most important objects is to produce a strain of paddy resistant to both disease and pest.

Cotton

The research work in cotton was, as with paddy, chiefly concerned with the evolution of improved strains by selection and cross-breeding. A new sub-station (at Kovilpatti) for the special study of cotton was opened during the year, where it is proposed also to investigate improvements in manuring and the technique of cultivation.

Manure

Investigations in manuring were also carried on by the Chemical section of the Department. The price of indigenous manures such as fish, bones and oil-cakes continued to be high by reason of the large and continuous foreign demand, and the aim is to produce a cheaper chemical substitute. Experiments were continued during the year into the possibilities of synthetic farmyard manure, which consists in the fermentation of straw and other waste products. The demand for green manure, popularized by the Department, is steadily increasing and over 118 tons were sold by the Department during the year.

Demonstration work

136. The work of the Department does not end with research and experiment. The discoveries of the laboratory that survive the tests of the experiment stations have to be brought home to the cultivator and proved to be suitable to the conditions of the ordinary village. This is done by means of demonstration plots. These plots are established on the ryots' own lands in order that the new methods may be contrasted with the old. This method is popular, the number of these plots has increased and there is a constant demand for more. Attention is naturally concentrated on paddy and steady progress was made during the year in advocating a reduced seed rate and single instead of bunch transplantation. Other improvements demonstrated by the Department during the year were the use of iron ploughs, better methods of cultivation, the use of green manures, better methods of making and storing cattle manure, the use of better strains of seed, and more technical improvements peculiar to cotton and sugarcane cultivation. In addition to demonstration plots, demonstration areas have been utilized. These are really demonstration plots on a large scale and

are the nearest approach to the model farm which the Department can practicably make.

137. On the research side crop diseases of a fungoid nature are investigated by the Mycological section, while insect pests are studied by the Entomological section. On the practical side operations take the form of applying the Pest Act and of educating the ryot in selected methods of prevention and cure. Operations against pests and diseases

The Agricultural Pests and Diseases Act continued to be applied in the interests of the cotton crop to the whole of the Madura district and to certain taluks of the Salem, Trichinopoly and Coimbatore districts. The object is to ensure the timely removal of the old crop in order that the pests should not be conveyed into the new crop. Although, however, the time limit was extended in 1925 up to the 31st August, the ryots still remain apathetic and during the year under report the crop was kept on the ground in parts of the Coimbatore and Salem districts for some time after the prescribed date. The result has been an increase in the percentage of attack by the pink boll worm. This has given cause for anxiety and a wider and more rigid application of the Act was perhaps foreshadowed by the prosecution, for the first time during the year under report, of defaulters under the Act.

The application of the Act to the palm disease prevalent in the Northern Circars was continued during the year. Although there has been a decrease in the number of dead trees and the disease may be said to be on the wane, it is still extensive enough to demand the continuance of protective measures and the Government have sanctioned during the year under report the retention of the special staff for a period of three years.

The year was also noticeable for the spread of the coconut caterpillar pest. The Act was applied to South Kanara last year, but this year it had to be extended to Malabar and a regular staff appointed for its administration. The chief operations against this disease consisted in the burning of affected leaves and the introduction of parasites

that prey on the pest caterpillar. It was because the severe drought adversely affected the spread of these parasites that the disease gained ground during the year under report.

Other pests and diseases more local in their incidence were also the subject of systematic campaign during the year.

Livestock

138. The Department continued to manage its four cattle farms, the largest of which is that at Hosur. It was definitely decided during the year to make breeding the primary object of these farms and to relegate milk supply to a secondary position. The ultimate object of the breeding work, experiments in which were continued during the year, is the production and distribution of bulls of a type most suitable for the Presidency. In addition, the Department maintains stud bulls at various centres. The model dairy at Coimbatore, which is now run on a commercial account system, continued to work efficiently during the year and the daily average yield of milk of the herd was again raised.

Miscellaneous

139. The amendment of the rules under the Cotton Transport Act engaged the attention of the Government. The Act, which is designed to prevent the import of inferior cotton, has been applied to the three principal cotton-growing areas in the Presidency, but during the year under report its administration gave rise to certain difficulties, some of which flowed from the opposition of vested interests.

Cotton Transport Act

Exhibitions

The Department continued to take advantage of local fairs and car festivals in order to hold small agricultural exhibitions at which improvements in crop and implements were demonstrated, literature distributed and lantern lectures delivered. Seventy-five such exhibitions were held during the year. In addition, several agricultural exhibitions on a larger scale were held ; the most important and the largest yet attempted in Madras was on the occasion of the opening of the new teaching college at Coimbatore by His Excellency the Governor. An important exhibition was also held in Madras in connection with and specially designed for

the delegates of the Provincial Co-operative Conference. The Tiruppūr Cattle Show was re-instituted after a discontinuance of two years on account of famine and disease. It was opened by His Excellency the Governor and was most successful.

Another important feature of the year's work was the collaboration between the Agricultural Department and the co-operative societies. It is realized that the co-operative societies offer admirable opportunities as vehicles for propaganda and distribution work. Assistance was also given by the Department to the criminal settlements at Sītānagaram, Bitragunta and Stuartpuram.

Finance

140. The expenditure of the Department during the year amounted to Rs. 16·6 lakhs as compared with Rs. 15·4 lakhs in the previous year. The increase in expenditure of over Rs. 1 lakh was mainly due to the cost of land acquired for the new paddy breeding station at Pattambi in the Malabar district and the extension of the agricultural station at Anakapalle. The total receipts of the Department amounted to Rs. 2·7 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 18,000 over the receipts of the previous year.

CIVIL VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

[*Administration Report of the Civil Veterinary Department for the year 1926–27*]

General

141. The work of the year under report shows that the activities of the Veterinary Department are steadily expanding. The number of veterinary assistant surgeons increased and more hospitals and dispensaries were opened, and further increases in staff were under the Government's consideration. Although however the total number of animals treated during the year increased, there was a fall in the number of cases dealt with by the touring staff, due to a change of policy inaugurated in the year 1925–26. As a result this policy has been under revision and will be more fully explained hereafter.

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The new sixth circle sanctioned by the Government in the previous year was opened during the year under report with its headquarters at Madura. Six new dispensaries were opened, bringing the total number of veterinary institutions at the end of the year to 82. Two existing dispensaries were transferred to different headquarters. The total number of in-patients and out-patients treated at all institutions rose from 104,059 to 112,349. The number of castrations also increased (3,424 against 3,103). On the other hand there was a satisfactory fall in the number of cases in which medicine was supplied without the patients being brought to the hospitals (4,923 against 5,998) and it is hoped that this method of treatment will in time disappear altogether.

Itinerating staff

142. In the year 1925-26 a change was made in the system of touring by veterinary assistants. Instead of the systematic touring previously in vogue, they were either attached to veterinary institutions from which they were expected to attend to outbreaks of contagious diseases as and when required, or, in areas where there were no such institutions, were engaged in running camp dispensaries. It is reported that the result of this change, and in particular of that portion of it which reduced the mobility of 34 assistant surgeons by attaching them to institutions, has been a decrease in the number of cases treated; the total number of animals treated and castrations performed was 43,907 as compared with 59,975 in the previous year. On the other hand, there was an appreciable increase in the number of inoculations performed, from 174,430 to 229,924, due to the continued severity of contagious diseases and in particular of rinderpest. In the result, therefore, it may be said that the falling off in the work of treatment has been counterbalanced to some extent by an increase in the work of prevention. In order however to meet the decline in the number of cases treated, the Government have ordered that veterinary assistants attached to institutions should also, like those not attached to institutions, run camp dispensaries when not

required to attend to outbreaks of contagious diseases.

Six new touring posts were created during the year in accordance with the policy of expansion, bringing the number at the close of the year to 88.

143. The mortality of cattle from contagious diseases continued to be high, the total number of deaths reported being 46,371 as compared with 45,147 in the previous year. Rinderpest was responsible for nearly one-half of these victims; although there was some decrease in mortality (from 23,724 to 21,476) this disease continued to be virulent in several districts. It also broke out on a severe scale in Madras City, where public lectures, illustrated with lantern slides, were given at various centres. Among the districts, Nellore, Malabar and Chingleput suffered most, while in Kurnool, Bellary and South Kanara the disease continued to be rampant, though less virulent than in the previous year. The Cattle Disease Act was enforced in these districts and also in certain others. A resort to compulsory inoculation was necessary in certain badly affected areas and over 27,000 animals were inoculated under compulsion, while 76 persons were prosecuted for refusing to submit their animals for inoculation. In all 181,781 inoculations were performed as against 146,119 in the previous year, but only 597 of these were effected by the serum-simultaneous method which confers permanent immunity. The other system, the serum-alone method, although more easily administered, gives only a short period of immunity. The question of increasing the use of the permanent though more difficult method in order to combat this disease, which has been virulent for some years, engaged the attention of the Government.

Diseases

Rinderpest

Other contagious diseases that continued to be severe during the year were *hæmorrhagic septicæmia*, anthrax and blackquarter. The mortality caused by the first two of these diseases remained much the same as in the previous year; but in the case of blackquarter there was a marked increase in the number of deaths, from 2,332 to 8,502. More than one-fourth of these deaths

occurred in the Chittoor district alone. *Hæmorrhagic septicæmia* continued to be severe in the districts of Guntūr and Tanjore, and the Nellore and Chingleput districts were also badly affected. Nellore also suffered considerably from anthrax.

Miscellaneous

144. The Chemical Examiner examined the viscera of 134 animals, on 103 of which the staff of the Veterinary Department conducted post-mortem examination. Poison was detected in 26 cases.

The number of convictions under the Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was 5,941 as against 5,562 in the previous year. Of this number, 3,245 related to the Trichinopoly district alone. It is satisfactory to observe that in the 934 cases convicted in the Coimbatore district, 825 animals were remanded to Government veterinary institutions for treatment and it is hoped that this practice will extend to other districts. The Cattle Disease Act was enforced at all important cattle fairs during the year and hospital pounds were established. Two annual cattle fairs in the districts of South Kanara and Malabar were not held during the year on account of the prevalence of rinderpest.

Veterinary College

145. The Veterinary College continued to work satisfactorily. There were 73 students at the end of the year as compared with 60 in the previous year, but only 11 men graduated from the college during the year. It is calculated that this rate of graduation, taken together with the rate of casualties in the Department, will supply no more than one-half the sanctioned scale of development for the Department and is on that account causing some anxiety. This situation is alleged to be due to the reduction in the number of stipends at the college from 120 to 45 in the year 1923. As a result the question of increasing the number of stipends in order to encourage the training of potential recruits engaged the attention of the Government.

The number of cases treated at the college hospital was 2,486 as compared with 2,766 in the previous year. There was however a considerable increase in the number of specimens received and

examined in the laboratory, from 1,878 in 1925-26 to 3,010 in the year under report. This branch of work has doubled in the last three years. The receipts and fees from the hospital and college amounted to Rs. 13,123 as compared with Rs. 12,533 in the previous year.

146. The expenditure of the Department during the year, including that of the Madras Veterinary College and Rs. 56,503 spent by the Public Works Department on veterinary buildings, was Rs. 8·0 lakhs as against Rs. 6·97 lakhs in the previous year. The increase was mainly due to a larger consumption of inoculative sera and to the opening of the new sixth circle. The total receipts of the Department amounted to Rs. 23,937 as against Rs. 19,794 in the previous year. **Finance**

FISHERIES (1926-27)

[*Administration Report of the Department of Fisheries for the year ending 30th June 1927*]

147. The outstanding feature of the year was the remarkable success of the two pearl fisheries, which brought in a total revenue only once previously surpassed. Other prominent features were the approval of a general programme of fisheries research for the next ten years, the transfer of the control of the Nilgiri fisheries from the Collector of the Nilgiris to the Department of Fisheries, and the starting of two co-operative societies whose inception had been encouraged by Government loans for the purchase of boats and nets. **General**

148. As in the previous year, when manufacture was suspended owing to poor sales and the large stock of canned fish on hand, there was no manufacture during the year under report. Plans had been approved by the Government for the revised management of the experimental and manufacturing side, but owing to unforeseen circumstances these could not be put into practice. The future management of the concern remained under the **Marine fisheries** The Cannery

consideration of the Government at the close of the year.

Sales this year were even poorer than in the previous year in spite of the usual advertisements and a special attempt to sell even at reduced rates. The stock at the cannery at the opening of the year was 144,759 tins and only 11,497 tins were sold as compared with 26,345 tins in 1925-26. Since the close of the year, however, the whole stock has been sold in Burma, which suggests that greater opportunities for sale lie in that province, and possibly also in the Straits Settlements, than in Southern India, where social customs and the state of the market would seem to preclude any extensive sale of tinned fish.

Tanur Experimental Station

The Tanur Experimental Station worked at a loss of Rs. 1,302 as compared with a small profit of Rs. 101 in the previous year. This was due to the unfavourable season, the poorest of four successive bad years. The only fish caught in appreciable quantities during the year, with the exception of a few good shoals of cat-fish at the close of the season, were prawns and miscellaneous small fish. Sardine and mackerel and the larger fish that usually accompany them were scarce. The purchases consisted of 78,764 lb of fresh fish for curing, as compared with 88,284 lb. in the previous year, and 40·25 tons of sardines for oil, fish-meal and manure operations. Research work and experiments were continued throughout the year.

Private oil and guano factories

The number of private oil and guano factories increased by 41 to 504 during the year, but most of them did not work owing to the indifferent sardine season. The result was that the total output of guano and fish oil fell considerably, its estimated value of Rs. 6·22 lakhs being about one-third less than the corresponding figure of the previous year.

Pearl and chank fisheries

The two pearl fisheries conducted during the year brought in a total gross revenue of Rs. 2·91 lakhs, the highest return since the record fishery of 1807. The yield would have been even greater but for the unseasonal gales and stormy weather and the strike among the divers that marked the year, while the income actually realized would have been higher but for the fall in the market

value of pearls. The total net profit amounted to Rs. 1·99 lakhs.

As a result of the time and efforts spent on the two pearl fisheries only 125,938 chanks were fished during the year as compared with 192,848 in the previous year, and the total revenue was Rs. 41,854 as compared with Rs. 62,734.

Fish-curing yards

There were 108 fish-curing yards at the close of the year, two having been opened during the year. A third was under construction. The working of the year was affected by the unfavourable season, especially on the West Coast, although the Calicut section did well. The result was a fall in the total quantity of fish cured together with a corresponding decrease in the amount of salt issued and in the revenue obtained from the sale of salt. The total weight of fish brought to the yards was 1,138,763 maunds as compared with 1,408,795 maunds in the previous year, while the revenue derived from the sale of salt was Rs. 2·30 lakhs as compared with Rs. 2·83 lakhs.

Exclusive of the expenditure of Rs. 16,491 on new works and on repairs, the working of the yards resulted in a profit of Rs. 6,256. This represents about one-sixth of a pie on every seer of salt issued. It has been urged during the year that the present issue price of Re. 1-4-0 per maund bears heavily on curers. These yards are the outcome of a policy adopted so long ago as 1874 to encourage fish-curers to resort to public enclosures, where their fish could be cured not only on hygienic and sanitary lines but also more cheaply, by reason of the issue of salt at rates lower than the market rates ; since then the yards have come more and more to serve as centres of demonstration of the improved and scientific methods evolved by the Department from its work at the Tanur Experimental Station. The policy of these yards is, therefore, paternal rather than fiscal, and although the price of salt was raised to its present figure in 1924 following a succession of heavy losses, it is not the intention of the Government to make any profit out of the yards. The question of reducing the issue price of salt was under consideration at the close of the year.

Deep-sea fishing experiments

Only two sets of experiments in deep-sea fishing were possible during the year. A second-hand trawler purchased by the Government from the Admiralty at a cost of £3,000 with a view to facilitate these experiments arrived last year but requires several improvements before she can undertake the duties assigned to her in the programme of development.

Marine Aquarium

The Marine Aquarium continued to be popular and the number of visitors increased. Certain improvements were effected during the year which increased the expenditure to Rs. 6,923 as compared with Rs. 5,401 in 1925–26. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 9,360.

Oyster supply

The combined oyster and biological section worked at a loss of nearly Rs. 800. The transactions connected with the supply of oysters alone brought in an increased revenue of Rs. 732 as compared with last year, but the sales of biological specimens, although greater in volume, resulted in an increased loss of Rs. 660.

Research

The sardine and mackerel investigations were continued during the year at the Calicut research station. Experiments in oyster culture were also conducted. The programme of research work for the next ten years approved during the year comprises the following three main heads :— biological, hydrographical and meteorological, and technological and industrial. On the biological side much yet remains to be done in the investigation relating to the sardine and the mackerel, while the problem of the irregular occurrence of Indian pearl fisheries is still unsolved.

Inland pisciculture

149. There was a decrease in the total income from inland fishery rentals—Rs. 1·02 lakhs as compared with Rs. 1·08 lakhs in the previous year—and the net profits were only Rs. 3,435 as against Rs. 8,877. The decrease is ascribed to the failure of the north-east monsoon ; the rentals for several tanks fell, while fifty-two tanks that dried up realized no rental at all.

In spite of the adverse seasonal conditions, however, good work was done on the fish farms. The results of the experiments in the Vellore and

Chingleput Moat farms in the stocking and breeding of catla were encouraging. The attempts at breeding *gourami* were also successful, especially in the Sunkesula and Perambur farms, and it is hoped that the assistance of the Department will be invoked to introduce this fish in private tanks and ponds. The cultural operations on *hilsa* in the Gōdāvari and Kistna rivers continued during the year but have not yet been satisfactorily concluded.

Socio-economic activities

150. There were 52 pupil-teachers in the Fisheries Training Institute as compared with 42 in 1925-26. The full course lasts for three years and at the final examination of the third year students, 7 out of 12 candidates passed in full. There were 34 village schools under the management of the Fisheries Department at the close of the year, 3 new day schools having been opened and 2 night schools closed during the year. The total number of pupils increased from 2,294 to 2,440, including an increase in the number of girls from 613 to 703. The education imparted in these schools is general as well as being particularly concerned with the fishing occupation.

The co-operative movement, however, has not made much headway, especially in the South Kanara district. The movement has shown some progress in Malabar but it cannot be said to have taken a satisfactory hold on the community in general. Both membership and share-capital decreased during the year, with a corresponding decline in loan transactions.

Finance

151. The total revenue of the Department during the year was Rs. 8·07 lakhs and the total expenditure Rs. 7·76 lakhs. The excess of revenue of Rs. 30,800, however, was due chiefly to the unsually large revenue derived from the two pearl fisheries, other sections not having done so well from the financial point of view as in the previous year.

WEATHER AND CROPS

(FASLI 1336—1ST JULY 1926 TO 30TH JUNE 1927)

[*Season and Crop Report for fasli 1336 ; Statistical Abstract for British India—Agricultural Statistics*]

South-west monsoon

152. The south-west monsoon commenced on the West Coast on the 5th June and, with occasional breaks, gave heavy rains till the 20th August, when it slackened. In the Circars and Nellore, the monsoon became active only at the end of June but from that time gave fairly good and well-distributed rainfall, except during the second fortnight of July. The Deccan received good rains in June (5th to 7th and 26th to 30th) and in the first fortnight of September, but the rainfall was poor in the rest of the period except in Cuddapah where there were good rains on the 24th July and the 25th and 26th August. The monsoon was weak in South Arcot, but Chingleput fared a little better. Good and well-distributed rains were received until the middle of September in Chittoor and Coimbatore, though they were late by about a month. The monsoon was fairly active in North Arcot, though not so good as in Chittoor. In the other districts, good rains were received in the first fortnight of September, but the monsoon was generally poor in the rest of the period.

Water-supply

Water-supply was generally sufficient except in parts of South Arcot, Salem and Rāmnād and in the non-Periyār areas of Madura. Freshes came down the main rivers copiously from July.

Sowings

Sowings of early crops were generally satisfactory, especially in the central districts. Sowings of wet crops were, however, much restricted in the Carnatic. The condition of early crops was fair.

On the whole, the south-west monsoon was late, ill-distributed, and not wholly adequate in many districts ; it was satisfactory only in Gōdāvari (East and West), Chittoor, Coimbatore, Tinnevelly and Malabar.

North-east monsoon

153. Fairly good rains were received in the first half of October except in Tinnevelly. The north-east monsoon commenced about the middle of October and gave good rains for about a week in

the Carnatic, central and southern districts, and on the West Coast. After a break of a week it revived on the 29th October, owing to a depression in the south of the Bay, but it slackened after the 8th November with the moving of the depression westwards into the Arabian Sea. The weather was dry after the 8th November, save for a few scanty showers on the Coromandel coast (especially Tanjore) and in the adjoining districts, due to local disturbances.

Water-supply

Water-supply was generally inadequate in most districts. Some of the tanks dried up. The supply in the Gōdāvari and Kistna rivers was, however, adequate.

Sowings

Sowings of late crops were generally much restricted, especially in the Circars and the Deccan. Late crops suffered from drought in parts of most districts, especially in the black-soil areas of Bellary and Anantapur and the Ongole taluk of Guntūr.

The monsoon failed completely in the Circars and the Deccan and was abrupt and inadequate elsewhere, especially in Nellore and Chittoor. As a result the area irrigated from tanks, the area of crops irrigated and the area cropped more than once were the lowest on record, while the area irrigated and the total area cropped were lower than in any year except 1918-19 and 1923-24. The yield of all crops was below normal.

Rainfall later in the season

154. Local rains were occasionally received in the south, especially in Tinnevelly, in January, February, and the first half of March, due to the unsettled conditions near Ceylon. There were widespread heavy rains often accompanied with thunder storms in the last week of April in Rāmnād and Tinnevelly and good showers in South Arcot, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madura, and on the West Coast. Adequate showers fell in May only in South Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore and the South (Tanjore excepted), and on the West Coast.

Character of the season

155. On the whole, the year was not generally favourable for agriculture; it was, however, better than the years 1918-19 and 1923-24. The season was fairly favourable in the Circars

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

(especially in the delta tracts) and Chittoor, though it was not so good as in the previous two years. The season was better than in the previous three years on the West Coast. Most of the other districts, however, were adversely affected, especially Bellary, Anantapur, Kurnool, Guntūr and Cuddapah.

Relief work

156. Relief operations under the Famine Code were not found necessary in any district. Employment was available in most districts, but in West Gōdāvari, Guntūr, Kurnool, Bellary, Anantapur and Cuddapah considerable amounts were spent on the construction of roads and other works in order to provide employment for unskilled labourers suffering from the conditions of the season.

Remissions

157. Seasonal remissions were granted on account of inadequate rainfall and scanty supplies in irrigation sources in most districts outside the West Coast, especially in North Arcot, Nellore, Anantapur, Chingleput and South Arcot. The postponement of the collection of kists to the next fasli was, however, not found necessary anywhere except in parts of the districts of Bellary, Anantapur and Guntūr, and in a few villages of East Gōdāvari and West Gōdāvari.

HORTICULTURE (1926–27)

[*Report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture for the year 1926–27 ; Report of the Agri-Horticultural Society of Madras for 1926–27*]

Government Gardens

158. The Government Botanic Gardens at Ootacamund and Sim's Park, Coonoor, continued to be maintained during the year. Both are popular places of resort. Sales of seeds, flowers and plants from the Botanic Gardens realized Rs. 4,930 and from Sim's Park Rs. 948.

Agri-Horticultural Society, Madras

159. The gardens of the Madras Agri-Horticultural Society are situated at Teynampet. Seeds, bulbs and plants were received during the year from various sources, including the Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradenyia and the Botanic Gardens,

Singapore, and were planted in the gardens with satisfactory results. The new plants previously introduced into the ornamental garden—to which various structural improvements were made during the year—progressed well, the flowering varieties again blooming profusely. The experiments with fruit trees have been less satisfactory.

The 88th annual exhibition of flowers, fruits and vegetables was held in the gardens of the Society on the 29th and 30th January 1927. The flower show was a great success both in the number and variety of exhibits, while in the fruit and vegetable sections there was a distinct improvement as compared with the previous year.

FORESTS

[*Report on the administration of the Forest Department for the year 1926–27; Statistical Abstract for British India—Forests*]

160. The important features of the year under report were progress in the preparation of working plans for the more important forests; the transfer to panchayat management of most of the areas classified as ryots' forests; the installation of forest saw-mills; and the introduction of certain changes in the organization of the Engineering branch. **General**

161. The policy of the Forest Department, as laid down three years ago, in regard to those forests which it is proposed to exploit, is the preparation of working plans which must include not only the measures most calculated to facilitate exploitation but also the operations necessary to ensure the regeneration of the forest crop. It is clear that such a plan demands, as a preliminary, a careful and detailed investigation into the nature and value of the forest growth and the possibilities of its extraction. It is equally important that the plan, once approved, should be faithfully executed. **Exploitation** Working plans

The obvious importance of these plans, both in their preparation and their working, has been emphasized during the year under report by an

examination of the possibilities of developing the supervision at present exercised by the Conservator for Working Plans. It is hoped to achieve greater unification and continuity in policy and more careful execution of programme.

This description of the Department's policy serves to illustrate the work accomplished during the year under report.

The most important work of the year was the preparation by the special staff of two revised working plans for the Walayar (6,038 acres) and Bolampatti (25,518 acres) forests. A scheme was also prepared for the experimental working of the timber forests in the Vannathiparai valley, and field work preparatory to the revision of the important working plans of the Wynaad and Nilambur forests was continued. In addition, the preliminary investigation of the exploitable areas in the South Kanara, Anamalais and Nilambur reserves was carried out by the Engineering branch; in all about 12,200 acres were examined and mapped. A simple working plan was sanctioned for the sandal areas in the Nilgiris and temporary schemes were introduced as a preliminary to the preparation of regular working plans for the sal forests in the Palkonda range in Vizagapatam and for the mixed teak forests in Upper Gōdāvari. Other working plans were also under preparation for the forests in the Nellore, Cuddapah, Salem and Chittoor districts.

Commercial undertakings

The commercial side of the Engineering branch was reorganized during the year by the constitution of all the Departmental timber depots in the West Coast into a "Forest Utilization Division" under the control of the Forest Utilization Officer. The economic uses of the various items of minor produce and the possibilities of their extraction and sale were investigated. The information thus collected is not only intended to serve the Department but is also at the disposal of the public in answer to enquiries.

In the Chenat Nāyar reserved forest, operations were transferred during the year from the Sappal Valley to Elival. This change in the centre of operations, together with difficulties in securing

carts, resulted in a fall in the average monthly output of logs from 15,600 cubic feet in the previous year to 14,600 cubic feet in the year under report. The outturn of the Olavakkot saw-mill, however, increased, as also the sales of sawn timber.

The exploitation operations in the Mount Stuart reserve resulted in a loss of Rs. 1,55,178 (as compared with a profit of Rs. 18,961 last year) and was due to the increased cost of production (caused by the smaller outturn) and the fall in the selling price of sawn timber. The ghat road laid down two years ago was extended during the year under report by the construction of the Topslip-Anaipadi road. The operations in the forests in the Nilambur valley resulted in the extraction of a larger quantity of timber at a slightly decreased cost as compared with the previous year, but there was a fall in the total profits on the year's working, due chiefly to a fall in the price of sawn timber. In the Pāpanāsam forests in Tinnevelly, the survey of the reed areas was completed and experiments on regeneration were begun. The question of installing a paper and pulp plant was still under consideration. The exploitation of the Nallamalais forests was continued but the adverse agricultural season resulted in a decline in the demand for timber.

Railway sleepers

The supply of sleepers by the Forest Department increased during the year. Seventeen thousand seven hundred and thirty-five broad gauge sleepers and 13,823 metre gauge sleepers were supplied to the Southern Group Sleeper Pool in accordance with the arrangement made last year, and 14,685 narrow gauge sleepers were supplied for use in connection with Cauvery-Mettur project. In addition, 7,443 sleepers were extracted from the Anamalais forests following the scheme sanctioned last year.

Russellkonda saw-mill

The working of the Russellkonda saw-mill during the year resulted in an improvement as compared with last year, when the mill was closed for some months. There was a profit of Rs. 8,389 after allowing interest charges amounting to Rs. 24,021, as compared with last year's loss of

Rs. 894 excluding interest charges. Sales were nearly doubled as a result of more activity in the timber market; 82,018 cubic feet was sold as compared with 42,870 cubic feet in the previous year. It is however feared that as the areas in which timber is felled recede from the mill, the increased transport charges may make the cost of extraction prohibitive, unless better arrangements for supplying the mill can be devised. This question was under examination during the year.

London agency

The total quantity of timber handled by Messrs. Howard Brothers of London was 9,265 cubic feet, of which 7,241 cubic feet was sold during the year. This agency has since been terminated and proposals for the appointment of agents in India for overseas business were under consideration.

Supply of produce

Timber

162. The output of timber amounted to 94,140 tons as compared with 93,620 tons in the previous year. Thirty-three thousand eight hundred and twenty tons were extracted by the Department and 56,180 tons by purchasers. Larger areas of teak plantation in the Nilambur forests were exploited and more extensive fellings were carried out in South Mangalore in order to supply the saw-mill at Parappa.

Fuel

Thirty-one thousand one hundred and fifty tons of fuel were removed by Departmental agency and 309,500 tons by purchasers, as compared with 34,417 tons and 292,100 tons, respectively, in the previous year. The decrease in Departmental exploitation was due to restricted fellings in West Kurnool following a decline in the demand, and to fluctuations of yield in the Nilgiris. The increased extraction by purchasers was due to the sale of a larger number of coupes in Ganjām and South Coimbatore and to better yields from the coupes in Ganjām and Vizagapatam. The total value of bamboos removed by all agencies was Rs. 4·11 lakhs as against Rs. 4·13 lakhs in the previous year. Seven hundred and twenty-four tons of sandal wood were sold for Rs. 9,27,771 as compared with 641 tons sold for Rs. 7,52,804 in 1925-26.

Grazing

163. Of the total area of reserved forests in the Presidency, 15·3 per cent was closed to grazing either throughout the year or for part of the year.

Grazing permits were issued for 1,816,572 animals, while 82,465 animals were grazed free of charge. The estimated value of forest produce removed by free grantees and right holders amounted to Rs. 68,036 as compared with Rs. 58,361 in the previous year.

164. As has been explained above, exploitation is followed by regeneration. Regeneration may be natural or artificial. Sylviculture

The possibilities of natural regeneration are considerable but vary from locality to locality. Seed regeneration, for example, often perishes in the vicissitudes of climate. Sandal wood is easily regenerated naturally and is reported to be spreading itself in many districts in a most satisfactory manner. Natural regeneration by coppice is so far giving satisfactory results, although it is a method which leaves everything to nature. The general possibilities of fostering re-growth and of directing the undisciplined methods of nature are engaging the attention of the Department. Natural regeneration

The principal feature of the year's work was the experiment in the Nilambūr forests of introducing teak in clear-felled areas in combination with a field crop. The experiment has been so far disappointing, due perhaps to the fact that this area has been entirely under teak for eighty years and may now require some rotation of crop. Experiments were also undertaken in Nilambur to replace pure teak by a mixed teak and underwood crop likely to preserve the essential factors of the soil. Artificial regeneration of clearfelled areas with teak was also carried out in the Mount Stuart forests, the Wynaad, the Lower Gōdāvari and the Nilgiris, with varying success. Some of the Mount Stuart plantations were markedly successful, although defoliation by insects is causing some anxiety. Artificial regeneration

Tending was carried out on the *hopea* crop introduced in South Kanara in the sandal wood areas and in certain other classes of forests. Much importance is attached by the Department to the care of young crops from the point of view of quicker growth and increased yield. Tending

Afforestation

The work of afforestation on the Kundahs in the Nilgiris has not proved successful. It is considered important that these grass areas should be re-clothed and further measures were under consideration during the year.

General administration

165. About nine square miles of reserved lands were finally settled under the Forest Act and about two square miles were added by the resurvey of the Ramagiri reserve in Anantapur. About five square miles were disforested, chiefly in order to provide lands for cultivation in Guntūr and Vellore. The net result was an increase of six square miles in the area of reserved forests which, at the end of the year, amounted to 19,028 square miles. About twelve square miles were declared reserved lands, while an almost equal extent was excluded in recognizing private claims under section 16 of the Forest Act. The total area of reserved lands, therefore, remained almost the same, about 327 square miles. Of the total area of 19,028 square miles of reserved forest, 2,802 square miles have so far been handed over to the management of forest panchayats, leaving 558 square miles classified as suitable for panchayat management yet to be handed over. Settlement operations were in progress in respect of about 110 square miles, the principal forest concerned being the Mudumalai block of 75 square miles in the Nilgiris. The chief reservation work to be undertaken in the future is that in Rampa and the Golgonda agencies. The former was commenced towards the close of the year, while arrangements for beginning the latter were under examination. One hundred and thirty-seven miles of boundaries were demarcated during the year and 18,012 miles were repaired.

Roads and communications

One hundred and forty-nine miles of new roads were made and 1,833 miles were repaired during the year. The total expenditure on new works amounted to Rs. 1·42 lakhs and on repairs to Rs. 1·07 lakhs. The chief work of importance was the construction of the Olavakkot-Elival road at a cost of Rs. 65,000 in connection with the exploitation of the Elival valley in the Chenat Nāyar reserve.

The total expenditure on buildings—inspection bungalows, range offices, subordinate quarters, out-houses, etc.—amounted to Rs. 2·11 lakhs as compared with Rs. 1·42 lakhs in the previous year. An amount of Rs. 19,764 was also spent on the construction and repair of wells, the improvement of water-supplies and the removal of rank vegetation. Buildings

The number of elephants in the possession of the Department at the beginning of the year was 95, valued at Rs. 3,06,170. Thirty-two elephants were captured during the year, the cost of the operations amounting to Rs. 10,608. Twenty-one elephants were sold and eight died; the number owned by the Department at the end of the year was 106, valued at Rs. 2,90,670. Sixty-nine buffaloes and bulls valued at Rs. 3,935 were also in the possession of the Department at the end of the year. Livestock

During the year 23,503 cases were disposed of under the Forest Act. The following table shows the nature of disposal:— Breaches of the Forest Act

	1925-26.	1926-27.
Cases taken to court	9,246	6,033
Cases compounded	18,510	15,534
Cases withdrawn	2,184	1,936

The general decrease in the number of offences is said to be due to the transfer of certain forests to panchayat management. Of the 6,033 cases disposed of by magistrates, 3,431 ended in conviction and 2,062 in acquittal, the percentage of acquittal being 43 as compared with 34 per cent in the previous year. It should, however, be noted that many accused persons elect to compound offences before magistrates and that these are shown as acquittals; it was the increase in the number of such cases during the year under report that caused the increase in the percentage of acquittal as compared with the previous year. A total of Rs. 2,04,339 was realized as compounding fees during the year; the amount in the previous year was Rs. 2,68,404.

The system of early burning as a protection against fire was continued in many important forests. It was discontinued in Kurnool, where Protection from fire

famine conditions had made it necessary to preserve the grass. The total area in which early burning was resorted to was 2,445 square miles. The area over which special fire protection other than early burning was attempted was 4,506 square miles, in spite of which 88 square miles were damaged by fire. The total expenditure on special protection during the year amounted to Rs. 33,814.

Forest College

Twenty-nine students passed out of the Forest College in 1927. Of these, 16 were from the Central Provinces, two from Hyderabad, one from Bihar and Orissa, one from the Orissa Feudatory States, while nine were Madras Government stipendiary students. The examination results were satisfactory ; no student obtained Honours but none failed.

Vernacular training

Vernacular training schools for the technical instruction of the subordinate staff were held during the year and the results were satisfactory.

Forest panchayats

The classification of reserved forests into "Local" (to be managed by forest panchayats) and "Provincial" (to be managed by the Forest Department) was completed during the year and the special staff appointed to supervise the panchayats was increased and its jurisdiction extended. The total extent reserved for panchayat management is 3,451·26 square miles. Up to the end of the year 985 panchayats had been constituted, managing a total area of 2,855 square miles and paying a lease amount of Rs. 1,28,957. There were in addition 22 panchayats managing an area of 14 square miles under the control of revenue divisional officers. The number of offences reported by panchayats during the year was 4,819 as compared with 2,259 in the previous year. Three thousand two hundred and fifty-six of these offences were compounded for a total sum of Rs. 24,869. It is satisfactory to observe that 384 panchayats have spent a total amount of Rs. 20,000 during the year in sinking new wells, improving cattle pounds, removing rank vegetation and effecting other improvements. During the year an important change in the system was under contemplation by which it is proposed to transfer the panchayats to the direct control of

Collectors in order that the district revenue staff, which is in touch with the ryot population, may be more closely associated with the panchayat movement.

Finance

The total revenue of the year was Rs. 55·3 lakhs as compared with Rs. 51·7 lakhs in the previous year. The expenditure was Rs. 50·58 lakhs as against Rs. 48·15 lakhs, leaving a surplus of Rs. 4·72 lakhs as compared with Rs. 3·55 lakhs in the previous year. There was an increase of Rs. 3·47 lakhs in the revenue realized on produce removed by Government agency, mainly on sandal wood and timber. The revenue realized on produce removed by contractors and purchasers decreased by Rs. 1·98 lakhs. The chief item of additional expenditure was the erection of three portable saw-mills.

MINES AND QUARRIES (1926)

[*Report of the Director of Industries on the Administration of Mines and Quarries for the year 1926; Statistical Abstract for British India—Mineral Production*]

Output

166. The principal minerals worked during the year were, as in the previous year, manganese in Vizagapatam and Bellary, magnesite in Salem, mica in Nellore, barytes in Kurnool and gold in Anantapur, but the output was less than in the previous year except in the case of manganese in Bellary and gold in Anantapur.

There was a fall in the production of manganese in the Vizagapatam district during the year owing to the closing of a number of mines, while in the Kurnool district there was no output at all of this mineral. There was however an appreciable increase in production in the Bellary district. In the Salem district 729 tons of magnesite are reported to have been discovered during the course of operations in connection with the exploitation of the iron-ore deposits in the Kanjamalai Mines for which a mineral lease has been granted; but the total output of the year was slightly less than in the previous year. Mica

production in the Nellore district declined in spite of an increase in the number of concessions granted. Mica was also worked in the new mines in the Nilgiris and in the Malabar district, but the production is yet small. The output of barytes in the Kurnool district fell considerably and was due, as also the failure of manganese in this district, to the closing of mines consequent upon unfavourable trade conditions. The gold and silver raised in the mines in the Anantapur district amounted to 929·65 oz. troy and 59·47 oz. troy respectively, an appreciable increase over the production of last year in spite of a temporary stoppage of operations.

Other minerals worked during the year were asbestos and steatite. The Mysore Development Syndicate continued to prospect for asbestos in the Cuddapah district, with an increased production as compared with the previous year ; but the Syndicate has not yet commenced regular mining operations under a mining lease. Steatite was mined in the Nellore district, where operations were re-started in the year 1925, and also in the Kurnool district, where production declined during the year.

General condition of the employees

167. The general health of the mine employees continued to be satisfactory. Mines were inspected by various officers during the year. Wages ranged from 2 annas a day for female labourers in the corundum mines in Salem to Rs. 2 a day for skilled labour in the mica mines in the Nilgiris. It is reported that women and children are employed only on the surface and not underground.

Accidents

168. There were no accidents in the mines in the Nilgiris, Anantapur, Kurnool, Cuddapah and Bellary, but there were three accidents in Nellore, one in Salem and five in Vizagapatam.

INDUSTRIES (1926–27)

[*Report of the Department of Industries for the year 1926–27; Statistical Abstract for British India—Industries*]

General

169. The Industrial Department took part during the year in a number of industrial and agricultural exhibitions in various places in the Presidency. Where possible, the Department exhibited soaps, inks and finished leathers prepared by the various Government institutes, and demonstrated the working of its weaving machines and pumping and boring plant. The Department was represented on various committees which sat during the year—the Railway Local Advisory Committee, the Hydro-Electric Schemes Committee and the Unemployment Committee.

Loans

170. The first Board of Industries constituted under the Madras State Aid to Industries Act was reconstituted during the year. Five applications for loans were considered by the Board, two of which were pending from the previous year. Three of these applications were refused, one by the Government because the security offered was considered inadequate and two by the Board on the ground that they did not come within the scope of the Act. Two applications were pending with the Government at the close of the year and another from the Salem Dye Works Syndicate for Rs. 10,000 has since been recommended by the Board. The Carnatic Paper Mills, Ltd., is by far the most important concern as yet aided under the Act and has so far received loans amounting to Rs. 4½ lakhs. In connection with the company's application for a further loan of Rs. 3½ lakhs the Government called for and received a comprehensive report on the position and prospects of the undertaking. The report was favourable and was under the consideration of the Government at the close of the year. A survey of the State Aid to Industries Act since its inception in the year 1923 has led to some doubt whether, as at present framed, it is best likely to promote its object of accelerating the industrial development of the Presidency. As a result, the Government have

taken up the question of amending the Act in order to provide greater facilities for the grant of aid under the Act to cottage and other small industries.

Assistance to trade and industry

171. The work of the Bureau of Industrial and Commercial Information is expanding. General and technical information was given on industrial and commercial subjects both to the public and to Government departments, and it is clear from the diverse nature of the enquiries answered during the year under report that the assistance of the Department is sought on every aspect of commerce and industry. Reports were sent as usual to the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, and information was exchanged with Trade Commissioners and Consuls and with the industrial departments of other provinces.

Investigation

172. Investigations into the possibilities of developing certain industries were continued. An exhaustive report on the lace and embroidery industry remained under the consideration of the Government, at the end of the year. Progress was made in the experiment of applying West Coast methods to the coir industry on the East Coast, but the experiment is not yet complete. Experiments were also conducted into the possibility of using machines for the shelling of groundnuts in order to prevent the serious deterioration of the kernel which follows from the present method of damping. This experiment is of first-class importance in that the annual export of groundnut amounts in value to some Rs. 9 crores and forms about 23 per cent of the total export trade of the Presidency. The question of introducing a sugarcane crushing plant similar to that now used at the Pallapalaiyam Sugar Factory into other large cane-growing centres was also examined. This plant is capable of a much greater percentage of extraction than the ordinary country mill and so reduces the cost of production. It is hoped to demonstrate these higher-power mills through the medium of co-operative societies assisted financially under the State Aid to Industries Act. The question of organizing and developing cottage industries as subsidiary occupations

for agriculturists was also examined and a special officer has since been appointed and has begun his enquiries.

Condition of major industries

173. The Department has for the first time during the year under report attempted a general survey of the major industries of the Presidency. The survey shows that the mining industry suffered in general during the year from adverse trade conditions, largely occasioned by the coal strike in England. In the textile industry, the cotton and jute mills appear to have enjoyed a not unsuccessful year, but the hosiery industry has suffered for some time from cheap imports from Japan, while in the lace and embroidery industry there was no improvement in the depression which has followed from the difficulty of finding markets. The tanning industry appears to be in a flourishing condition and the exports of tanned hides and skins during the year represented 17 per cent of the total export trade of the Presidency. The oil industry, although extensive, appears to be capable of expansion, particularly by developing the manufacture in the Presidency itself of oil and oil-cakes from the raw oil seeds, at present exported in very large quantities. There is a considerable local consumption of vegetable oils, while the manufacture of oil-cakes would be of direct benefit to agriculturists, inasmuch as oil-cake is both a valuable food-stuff for cattle and a useful fertilizer. But the difficulties in the way of development are great, more especially those of competing with foreign oils, of finding markets in the face of the high tariffs which protect the chief manufacturing countries, and of educating the ryot in the dual uses of oil-cake. With a view, however, to provide a stimulus to the oil industry by demonstrating the usefulness of oil expellers, the Government have decided to instal an oil expeller and roller mill in the premises of the Kallakurichi Co-operative Industrial and Agricultural Society. The sugar industry has not done well as the refineries in the Presidency could not meet the local demand for sugar owing to the high prices of local jaggery. As a result there was a considerable increase in the imports of refined sugar.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

Government establishments

174. The Department continued to manage the Government institutions established for the manufacture of soap and glycerine, ink powder and fluid ink. The future of the Kerala Soap Institute at Calicut was under consideration during the year and a change of policy was the result. It was decided that the Institute should continue as a commercial concern but its principal object hereafter would be to provide training in the art of soap-making; its career as an instructional centre will be reviewed in the year 1929. The preliminaries connected with the opening of classes for apprentices were completed and the classes were opened on 1st May 1927. The volume of business transacted by the Institute during the year was smaller than in the previous year and was due to adverse trade conditions and the tightness of the money market. Sales decreased from Rs. 2·7 lakhs in 1925-26 to Rs. 2·44 lakhs and the net profit was only Rs. 900. The Government Industrial Institute at Madras, however, had a successful year and the quality of the different varieties of ink manufactured in the Institute was still further improved. Sales increased from Rs. 21,519 in 1925-26 to Rs. 28,786. There was a net profit of Rs. 1,487 on the year's working as compared with a loss of Rs. 3,332 (including interest charges) on last year's working. Experiments were in progress with a view to reduce the cost of manufacture, and investigations were begun in regard to the manufacture of printing inks of superior quality with the aid of machines recently received from England.

Weaving

The Textile branch continued to be engaged primarily in improving the condition of the handloom weaving industry through the agency of its five peripatetic weaving parties. The efforts of these parties were particularly directed to the improvement of the preparatory processes of weaving, the demonstration of the Departmental hand-sizing machines and the distribution of power-sized warps. Although, however, the value of the power-sized warp in saving the time of the weaver has been successfully demonstrated, considerable difficulty has been met in inducing

the weavers to purchase it. As a result, a special officer of the Co-operative Department was appointed during the year with a view to organize the distribution of power-sized warps among the co-operative societies. The Textile Institute continued its work of training students, inspecting and distributing appliances and investigating technical improvements. The Government have provided twelve scholarships to the Institute, as weavers were found unwilling to send their adult sons for full-time training. A number of part-time weaving schools intended for the benefit of weavers' children were provided during the year with properly trained teachers from the Textile Institute.

Sericulture

The fungus disease which broke out in 1925 and considerably retarded the work of the Coonoor Silk Farm again appeared during the year under report. By February 1927 the remedial measures advised by the Government Mycologist had apparently eradicated the disease, but it has since reappeared in a violent form and the question of opening a new farm elsewhere is under consideration. The peripatetic silk-rearing party continued its work of testing and distributing seeds and demonstrating the use of the Italian domestic reeling machine.

Engineering branch

The Engineering branch continued to give free general information and advice on engineering questions unless local inspection was involved, when the usual fee of Rs. 15 was charged. Machinery and plant to the capital value of Rs. 4½ lakhs was erected during the year on payment of the regulation fee of 2½ per cent on the capital cost of the machinery installed. Four hundred and fifty-four plants were maintained during the year on the compounding system, under which they are inspected and overhauled by the Department three times a year. Loans amounting to Rs. 47,000 were granted to agriculturists for the installation of pumping machinery. The Department maintained 9 power drills, 3 of which were new, and 54 hand drills. Boring operations increased considerably during the year owing to the bad seasonal conditions. Twelve new pumping

sets were added to those already maintained by the Department and 95 applications for pumping sets were received as compared with 61 in the previous year. The question of reducing the fees levied for the use of Government machinery was under examination during the year and the Government have since decided to reduce the fees in many cases and to remit them altogether in a few cases. The Industrial Engineering Workshops attended to 512 work orders during the year and turned out work to the value of Rs. 1,09,260 as compared with Rs. 88,499 in the previous year. The year's working yielded a net profit of Rs. 7,723.

Industrial education

175. The following five Government industrial schools continued to be maintained :—the Government Trades School, the School of Arts and Crafts, the Government Industrial Institute, Madura, the Leather Trades Institute, Madras and the Government Textile Institute, already mentioned. Two hundred and forty-two new students entered the Government Trades School but the total strength of the school fell. An entrance examination was introduced during the year in order to restrict the strength of the mechanical and electrical classes to reasonable limits. Preparatory classes were also instituted. At the School of Arts and Crafts the average attendance and the average number on the rolls increased : a satisfactory feature was the increase in the number of pupils of the artisan class. At the Madura Industrial Institute the workshop and the institute were combined during the year as a single commercial undertaking. The output of the workshop has shown a steady increase during the past few years. The decline in the strength of the Leather Trades Institute continued ; only one new student was attracted during the year and only 7 students were on the rolls at the end of the year. The question of modifying the school course in order to meet this situation was under the consideration of the Government. In addition, 59 industrial schools recognized by the Department were maintained (of which 7 were recognized during the year) ; of these,

55 were in receipt of grants-in-aid. This expenditure on aided institutions is an important part of the Government's policy of developing industrial education ; it has more than doubled during the last few years and amounted to Rs. 1·55 lakhs in the year under report. Several industrial scholarships were awarded during the year. These included 3 to the United Kingdom—one for the study of hydro-electric engineering, one for chemistry and the manufacture of drugs and one for the manufacture of sugar—bringing the total number of Madras scholars undergoing training in the United Kingdom to 9 ; four of these scholarships were extended during the year. Other scholarships included 5 to the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, 5 to the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Bombay, and 60 awarded to pupils learning trades in recognized industrial schools.

176. The net cost of the Department was Rs. 9,85,463 as compared with Rs. 9,20,504 in the previous year. **Finance**

177. The three cinchona plantations at Anamalais, Naduvattam and Dodabetta worked as usual during the year. The new plantation at Anamalais made satisfactory progress but the Naduvattam plantation suffered from the deficient rainfall. In the quinine factory extraction was reduced during the year, as it was considered desirable to conserve bark until more adequate supplies can be anticipated. The year's working realized a profit of Rs. 94,723 as against Rs. 1,79,103 in the previous year. The decrease was due chiefly to a considerable fall in the selling prices of quinine products. **Manufacture of quinine**

MANUFACTURES

[*Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, for the year 1926 ; Statement of cotton and jute mills in the Madras Presidency for the year 1926-27*]

178. During the year, 24 cotton mills were at work in the Presidency as compared with 23 in the year 1925-26 ; 3 mills were not worked at all. **Cotton and jute mills**

The total number of persons employed in the various mills was 35,367, of whom 24,309 were men, 6,563 women and 4,495 children.

As in the previous year, there were four jute mills at work. The average number of persons employed daily in the jute mills was 5,510.

Other industries

179. At the close of the year 1926, the number of factories in the Presidency (other than cotton and jute mills) governed by the Amended Indian Factories Act was 893, of which 824 were classed as perennial and 69 as seasonal; the corresponding figures in the year 1925 were 785 and 52. The average daily number of operatives employed in all the factories was 73,791 as compared with 71,991 in the previous year. The following table shows the principal industries carried on at the various factories and the number of persons employed :—

Class of factory.	Persons employed.
Railway workshops	19,065
Rice mills	14,436
Brick and tile factories	5,859
Printing presses	4,313
Coffee works	3,332
Sugar factories	2,833
Rope works	2,681
General engineering works	1,669
Leather work and tanneries	1,592
Kerosene, tinning and packing works ...	1,426
Tobacco factories	1,270
Tea factories	1,136
Coach building and motor repairing works.	963
Bone and manures and oil mills	946
Tramway works	538
Saw mills	515
Jewellery works	505
Foundries (iron and brass)	381
Aluminium works	336
Metal works	310

New industrial undertakings

As in the previous year, there were few new flotations and several companies failed. This situation was due to the continued depression in trade and the unfavourable condition of the money market. Only one cotton mill and one jute mill were registered during the year. Other new concerns included one hosiery mill, one light railway company and one dye works.

Factories (1926) General

180. At the beginning of the year, there were 1,196 factories on the registers. During the year, 15 factories were removed from the registers and 97 new factories were registered ; of the latter, 25 were rice mills and 22 were cotton ginning factories. There were thus 1,278 registered factories at the end of the year (378 of them being connected with the cotton industry) of which 880 were classed as perennial and 398 as seasonal. One thousand one hundred and ninety-eight factories were working during the year ; the remaining 80 factories were closed and did not work. The average daily number of operatives employed in the 1,198 factories that were working during the year was 127,411 as compared with 123,563 employed in 1,121 working factories in the previous year. As usual, cotton spinning and weaving mills gave employment to the largest number (29,218). The total number of women and children employed during the year was as follows :—27,096 women, 3,746 boys and 2,095 girls. The figures for the previous year were 26,884 women, 4,006 boys and 2,422 girls. The increase in adult female labour was due to the increased number of factories at work. The decrease in juvenile employment in spite of the increase in the number of factories is a satisfactory feature and is attributed to the restrictions imposed and the vigilance maintained in enforcing them. The system requiring certificates of age and physical fitness in the case of juvenile employees worked fairly well ; in all, 6,426 certificates were issued.

Inspections

During the year, 2,509 inspections of various factories were made ; in addition, 179 factories were visited but were found closed.

Health

The health of the operatives was generally good. Two printing presses provided dispensaries for the workpeople during the year ; the dispensaries and arrangements for medical aid already established in the various factories continued to be maintained. The sanitary arrangements in the factories were fairly satisfactory ; where they were found to be defective the requisite action was taken under the Factories Act. Twenty-nine prosecutions were instituted during the year for failure

to observe the statutory requirements in regard to sanitation, lime-washing and painting, latrines and drinking water.

Wages

The average rates of wages paid in the various factory industries throughout the year varied as compared with those paid in 1925 ; in some cases there was an increase and in other cases a decrease. Daily wages ranged during the year, in the case of male skilled labour, from As. 7-8 for jute spinners to Rs. 1-4-8 for engine drivers ; and in the case of unskilled labour, from As. 7-7 to As. 9-7 for men and from As. 4-9 to As. 5-6 for women.

Strikes

There were nine strikes during the year, all of a minor character ; seven occurred in rice mills in the East Gōdāvari district and two in a gas lamp manufacturing works in Madras. In eight cases the cause of the strike was a demand for higher wages and in one case a demand for the reinstatement of dismissed workmen. In seven cases the demand of the operatives was partly met after the lapse of one month, in one case the strikers resumed work on being promised an increase in wages and in another case the services of the strikers were dispensed with and fresh men entertained.

Fires

There were nine fires during the year. There was no loss of life nor injury caused to any person. Of the total damage caused by the fire, 91 per cent was covered by insurance.

Accidents

There were 1,263 accidents during the year as compared with 1,092 in the previous year ; of these, 15 were fatal and 267 were classed as serious. It should, however, be noted that the category of "serious" accidents is wide ; of the 267 serious accidents of the year, 36 resulted in serious bodily injury—23 in the loss or partial loss of limb or vision and 13 in the partial loss of fingers. As usual, a large proportion of the accidents occurred in railway workshops. Of the 15 fatal and 267 serious accidents, 7 of the former and 50 of the latter were caused by machinery moved by mechanical power. In this class of accident there was a decrease as compared with the previous year, from ·104 per cent to ·091 per cent of the total number of operatives. In the total number

of accidents, however, there was an increase, from ·88 per cent to ·99 per cent of the total number of operatives, in spite of the affixture in all factories of a danger notice in English and the vernacular prescribed by the Government in the year 1925. The possibility of devising further measures likely to minimize accidents was under consideration.

Prosecutions

Ninety-four persons concerned in the management of 84 factories were prosecuted during the year for infringements of the Factories Act.

Welfare work

In addition to those factories where welfare measures were already instituted, which were maintained during the year, certain other factories took steps to ameliorate the condition of their employees ; in most cases these took the form of the provision of tiffin rooms or the organization of sports and amusements.

Labour and Depressed Classes (1926–27)

[*Report on the administration of the Labour Department for the year 1926–27*]

General

181. Steady progress was made by the Labour Department during the year. Its work, however, was in some cases hampered by manifestations of caste jealousy. In the Tanjore district, for example, the land-owners opposed the acquisition of land for use as house-sites by questioning the acquisition proceedings in the civil courts. In Nellore and North Arcot the special operations started by the Department during the year were strongly opposed by the caste ryots and on two occasions police assistance had to be invoked. In another instance, when caste people demolished a shed which had been erected for use as a school for the depressed classes, the offenders were prosecuted and convicted. On the other hand, instances were happily not wanting of active co-operation from caste people. The depressed classes themselves are slowly becoming more articulate in the expression of their grievances and the formulation of their demands. A notable feature of their conferences during the year was the insistence

on the separate representation in the Legislative Council of their various sub-castes.

Labour unions

182. The passing of the Trade Unions Act has given an impetus to the Trade Union movement in Madras. Seven unions were active during the year or some part of it, as compared with two active unions in the previous year : in addition, two new unions were formed and a third formally resuscitated.

Labour disputes

Except for the strike on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway which affected to some extent those railway employees located at Vizagapatam, no strike or lock-out of a serious nature occurred during the year. Two cases of dispute, however, might have become serious but for the good sense displayed by the parties. One, a dispute concerning the female employees of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, was settled by the generosity of the management in conceding the point at issue. The other, which concerned a grievance of the workmen on the South Indian Railway, was referred to the Commissioner of Labour for arbitration and his award was favourably accepted by both sides.

Depressed classes

183. Special staffs continued to work on behalf of the depressed classes in the districts of Tanjore, East Gōdāvari, Kistna, Guntūr, Bellary, South Kanara, Chingleput, South Arcot and Trichinopoly and in the City of Madras. In Malabar the work continued to be under the direction of an honorary district labour officer. Special operations were also started during the year in the districts of Nellore and North Arcot. The main lines of work were the provision of house-sites, assignment of waste lands for cultivation and the lease of valuable lands, organization and supervision of co-operative societies, establishment of schools, construction of wells, repairs to ponds, and the provision of sites for burial grounds, latrines and pathways.

House-sites

Six thousand two hundred and five house-sites were granted during the year : of these, 2,739 were provided by the assignment of lands formerly reserved but no longer required for communal

purposes, and 3,466 by the formal acquisition of lands.

Co-operation

The co-operative movement made further progress during the year under report. One hundred and forty-four new societies were organized and registered, bringing the total number of societies under the control of the Department at the end of the year to 1,329. The main objects of these societies are to finance the acquisition of house-sites on the easy instalment system, the cultivation and reclamation of land and other agricultural purposes, the discharge of loans borrowed at high rates of interest from money-lenders, the relief of persons affected by the floods of 1924, and collective bargaining, sale and trade. The societies were financed by Government loans for the acquisition of house-sites and for other purposes chiefly by the Christian Central Bank, Madras, and some district banks. Many loan repayments which fell due to the societies during the year were not paid, owing generally to the bad season, with the result that the societies themselves fell into arrears.

Education

The main lines of the educational work of the Department are the maintenance of schools, the payment of special educational grants, boarding grants, scholarships and stipends, and the maintenance of hostels. During the year, 231 new schools were opened as compared with 127 in the previous year. Nine hundred and twenty-six schools were at work at the end of the year including 60 night schools and 79 combined day and night schools. No fees were collected from the pupils. Caste pupils were also admitted free of charge. The schools are located in suitable rented buildings wherever available; otherwise cheap sheds are constructed. In a few cases the villagers have contributed towards the cost of building these sheds. In addition to the maintenance of these schools, financial help is given to educational institutions run by philanthropic and other private bodies. During the year the Government authorized the Commissioner to grant a larger number of scholarships and fee remissions than in previous years; altogether 550

scholarships and 195 remissions were granted. In addition 110 industrial scholarships and 10 commercial scholarships were awarded, and stipends were paid to teachers of the fishermen caste on the East Coast to enable them to undergo training. The total expenditure on education during the year was Rs. 3·3 lakhs.

Assignment of land

Twenty-six thousand two hundred acres of lands were assigned during the year to members of the depressed classes. This brought the total extent of land so far assigned to 206,200 acres.

General ameliorative work

A sum of Rs. 1·98 lakhs was spent during the year on general ameliorative work. The major portion of this amount was as usual spent on digging new wells or tanks and repairing old ones. The remaining amount was spent on pathways, on sites for schools, wells, latrines and burial grounds, and on sanitary improvements in the cheris of Madras City.

Criminal tribes

184. The work connected with the reclamation of criminal tribes and the registration under the Criminal Tribes Act of new tribes is now supervised by the Labour Department.

Criminal settlements

185. There were in the Presidency at the beginning of the year 8 settlements for criminal tribes, one of which was abolished during the year. The total population in these settlements was 5,810. Agriculture is the main occupation, but industries such as weaving and carpet-making have been started in several settlements in order to provide a subsidiary occupation for famine years. A school is maintained at each settlement at which attendance is compulsory for all children of school-going age. It is interesting to observe that the number of children who attended the settlement schools per mille of the settlement population during the year under report was 198, whereas the number of children attending school per mille of the total population in the Presidency was only 55. Two industrial schools have also been established, one for boys and one for girls, and are under the management of the Salvation Army.

Among individual settlements, particularly good work was done during the year at those at

Aziznagar in the South Arcot district, Siddhapuram in the Kurnool district, and the Pammal settlement in the Chingleput district.

Reclamation of Kallars

186. The work of reclaiming the Kallars of the Madura and Rāmnād districts continued to show steady progress during the year. The panchayats, whose work was carefully scrutinized by the reclamation staff, showed a deeper realization of their responsibilities and duties and have been conforming more strictly to the conditions of their agreements. They freely reported crimes, were of very great assistance in the recovery of stolen property and assisted in the apprehension of 75 accused persons (as compared with 33 in the previous year). In some instances, where panchayats were found to be grossly misbehaving, the exemption granted to them under the panchayat agreement was cancelled. Further progress was also shown in co-operative work, 16 new societies being started during the year, in cultivation, 1,379 acres of land being freshly assigned, and in education, 17 new schools being opened. Among the industries, weaving and carpentry made good progress, but the tailoring and blacksmith sections had to be closed as they did not prove successful. Considerable progress was made in the reclamation of the Kallars of Tanjore, 75 panchayats, 28 co-operative societies and 40 schools having been newly established during the year.

Criminal Tribes Act

187. The Act was not extended to any new tribe during the year. A good deal of misapprehension exists concerning the application of the Act and the question of issuing clearer departmental instructions engaged attention. With a view to ensure that only really active criminals are watched, the section of the Act permitting the removal from restrictions of the better-behaved members was applied with more discrimination during the year. This has the effect of reducing the number of members under strict surveillance and at the same time permits a more concentrated attention on those members who really require surveillance. Very little crime is attributed to registered members and so far none to those in

whose cases the restrictions have been relaxed. Five thousand five hundred and seventy persons were registered under the Act during the year and 2,713 were removed from the registers for good conduct and other causes. At the end of the year the total number of persons registered under the Act, excluding the Kallars of Tanjore but including persons confined in settlements, was 40,141 (32,016 males and 8,125 females).

SEA-BORNE TRADE (1926–27)

[*Report of the Sea-borne Trade of the Madras Presidency for the year 1926–27; Annual volume of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the Madras Presidency; Statistical Abstract for British India—Foreign Trade and Shipping; Review of the Trade of India; Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade of British India; Annual Statement of the Foreign Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India, 2 vols.; Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India*]

General summary

188. The aggregate value of the sea-borne trade of the Madras Presidency (including Government transactions) was Rs. 92·38 crores, a decrease of Rs. 5·16 crores or 5·29 per cent as compared with the previous year. The decrease was mainly due to a heavy fall in the Presidency's staple exports. The export of groundnuts was adversely affected by the dislocation of Continental exchanges combined with the tightening of freights (due to the coal strike in England) and the failure of timely rains, while the next most important staple of the Presidency, raw cotton, suffered from the fall in the price of American cotton as well as from the restriction of manufacturing activities also caused by the shortage of coal. There was, however, an increase in the total imports.

Foreign trade

Imports

189. The total value of the foreign trade in private merchandise was Rs. 59·26 crores, a decrease of Rs. 3·59 crores or nearly 6 per cent as compared with 1925–26. Imports (valued at Rs. 21·26 crores) rose by Rs. 2·41 crores or nearly 13 per cent as compared with the previous year,

while exports (valued at Rs. 38 crores) fell by Rs. 6·01 crores or nearly 14 per cent. The rise in imports was due mainly to increases in cotton manufactures, sugar, machinery and millwork, dyes and colours, metals and ores, paper and pasteboard. The chief items showing a decrease were cotton twist and yarn, spices, artificial silk and coal.

The increase of Rs. 72 lakhs in the imports of cotton manufactures was shared by all descriptions of piece-goods, grey, white, and coloured. The total imports of cotton piece-goods rose by 58 per cent in quantity and 32 per cent in value. This marked increase was due to a steady exchange combined with a lower basis of home values as a result of the large crop of American cotton, low stocks in the market consequent on the absence of speculative business in 1925–26, and easier money conditions.

The imports of refined sugar (46,541 tons valued at Rs. 118·90 lakhs) increased by 20,068 tons or 76 per cent in quantity and Rs. 53·17 lakhs or 81 per cent in value. This increase was due to the inability of the Nellikuppam and Samalkot factories managed by Messrs. Parry & Co. to produce the usual quantity of sugar required to meet local demands owing to the high price of Indian jaggery, with the result that the cheaper sugar of Java was imported in order to supply the shortage.

The total value of the imports of machinery and millwork (Rs. 164·14 lakhs) rose by Rs. 20·95 lakhs or 15 per cent. The increase occurred chiefly in prime-movers (other than electrical) and electrical machinery. The former is explained by the growing popularity of oil-engines, owing to their simple construction and cheap running cost, for cotton ginning, oil-pressing, rice mills and agricultural purposes, while the rise in the imports of electrical machinery is due in general to the increased use of electricity in Southern India and in particular to the development of the Mysore hydro-electric schemes at Sivasamudram and Kolar.

The total imports of dyeing and tanning substances rose from Rs. 26·89 lakhs to Rs. 39·62 lakhs, of which the most important items were alizarine and aniline dyes. The large increase in the import of dyes was due partly to the improved selling arrangements of the German interests in the Presidency and partly to the direct import of dyes to Madras instead of through Bombay as in previous years.

Under metals and ores (Rs. 2·46 crores) there was a large increase (+ Rs. 7·44 lakhs) in the imports of steel bars (other than cast steel) and a heavy fall in the imports of rails, chairs and fish plates (— Rs. 9·03 lakhs). The increase in steel bars was due to larger imports from Belgium and Germany consequent on the further cutting of prices. The heavy decrease in the imports of rails, chairs and fish plates from 10,367 tons to 1,052 tons was due to the dislocation of the British steel industry caused by the coal strike in England (the chief source of supply of these articles). Imports of metals (other than iron and steel) rose by Rs. 10·70 lakhs, chiefly under brass, tin and copper, the main sources of supply being Germany, the United Kingdom and Belgium.

Imports under twist and yarn (Rs. 136·77 lakhs) declined by Rs. 11 lakhs or 8 per cent in value, though the quantity (8,641,646 lb.) increased by 951,216 lb. or 12 per cent. This situation was the result of the cheaper prices of yarn consequent on the fall in the price of raw cotton combined with scarcity of stocks in the market, which stimulated the local demand. Of the total imports of twist and yarn, the United Kingdom contributed 72 per cent and Japan 23 per cent.

The total value of the imports of spices decreased from Rs. 65·65 lakhs to Rs. 55·43 lakhs. As usual, betel-nuts formed the bulk of the imports under this head and fell from 232,742 cwt. valued at Rs. 63·42 lakhs in 1925–26 to 208,209 cwt. valued at Rs. 51·28 lakhs in the year under report, due to the poor harvest of arecanut in Ceylon and a consequent rise in prices.

Imports of artificial silk yarn decreased from 338,462 lb. to 276,404 lb. in quantity and from

Rs. 10·08 lakhs to Rs. 5·17 lakhs in value. The decrease was practically confined to imports from the United Kingdom, where the manufacturers did not immediately follow the fall of 50 per cent in the price of Continental silk yarns.

The quantity of coal imported from foreign countries during 1926–27 was only 10 tons as against 19,911 tons in the previous year. There have been no imports during the last two years from Natal and New South Wales, which formerly sent large cargoes to this Presidency, nor was there any supply from England during the year under report, owing to the prolonged coal strike in that country. The coal required for consumption in the Presidency was obtained from Bengal.

Exports

The decrease of Rs. 5·98 crores under exports was caused by a heavy fall in the shipments of raw cotton, seeds, coffee, jute, spices and Madras handkerchiefs, partly set off by increases in grain, pulse and flour, leather, oil-cakes and tea.

There was a decrease of Rs. 4·84 crores in the value of raw cotton exported. In the preceding year, raw cotton was the second most important article of the export trade and accounted for 18 per cent of the total exports. In the year under report it has fallen to the fourth place, with only 8·13 per cent. There was a marked fall in the shipments to all destinations, due to the abnormal production of cotton in America and the consequent fall in prices.

The total export of seeds fell by Rs. 1·35 crores or 12 per cent in value and by 39,422 tons or 9 per cent in quantity. The decrease occurred mainly in groundnuts, which formed nearly 91 per cent of the trade in seeds and 22 per cent of the total foreign export trade of the Presidency. The shipments of this commodity to France and other Continental ports fell in total from 370,017 tons valued at Rs. 9·86 crores to 317,780 tons valued at Rs. 8·33 crores, or by 14 per cent in quantity and 15 per cent in value, and is attributable to the following six causes :—the decreased production of the crop due to the failure of the rains, the unsettled state of the French exchange, the political and financial situation in Europe, the difficulty

in securing freights to Continental ports at reasonable rates owing to the higher prices of coal, speculative holding by exporters in the hope of cheaper freights and higher prices, and probably also the supply of other oil-producing seeds for use as substitutes for groundnut.

Exports of coffee declined by 51,294 cwt. or 26 per cent in quantity and Rs. 49·74 lakhs or 28 per cent in value, due to the decrease in the yield of the crop in the year under report.

Exports of raw jute amounted to 1,885 tons valued at Rs. 7·83 lakhs as against 6,537 tons valued at Rs. 38·76 lakhs in the previous year, the chief consumers being the United Kingdom (1,065 tons) and Germany (646 tons). The large decrease is attributable partly to the fall in production due to drought and probably also to the re-starting of work in the Chitavalsah mills.

The export of pepper dropped from 86,401 cwt. valued at Rs. 62·70 lakhs to 71,707 cwt. valued at Rs. 43·60 lakhs or by 17 per cent in quantity and 30 per cent in value. The United States of America, the United Kingdom and Italy (the chief consumers of Indian pepper) all reduced their demands, because although the pepper crop harvested and available for export was much larger than in the previous year, prices were not reduced to any appreciable extent and the cheaper sources of supply, viz., the Straits Settlements, were therefore tapped by the consuming countries.

The export trade in Madras handkerchiefs (made in handlooms around Madras) decreased from Rs. 36·38 lakhs to Rs. 15·06 lakhs, most of which went to the United Kingdom for re-shipment to African markets. The heavy decrease in this class of goods was probably due to the over-production of inferior qualities.

The exports of rice rose from 61,832 tons to 108,970 tons in quantity and from Rs. 130·30 lakhs to Rs. 220·58 lakhs in value. The marked increase was due to larger demands from Ceylon and the Straits Settlements combined with good harvests in the districts of Tanjore and Gōdāvari.

The total value of the exports of tanned hides and skins rose from Rs. 600·27 lakhs to Rs. 637·87

lakhs in value and represented 17 per cent of the total export trade of the Presidency.

The export of oil-cakes, mostly of sesamum and groundnut, amounted in value to Rs. 55·60 lakhs as against Rs. 44·38 lakhs in the previous year. Exports of tea fell from 43·13 million lb. to 42·94 million lb. in quantity, although as a result of the rise in the price of tea the value rose from Rs. 353·38 lakhs to Rs. 363·72 lakhs.

The aggregate value of foreign merchandise re-exported to foreign countries amounted to Rs. 29·27 lakhs as against Rs. 32·30 lakhs in the previous year.

Government transactions

190. The total value of Government stores imported and exported during 1926-27 amounted to Rs. 45·73 lakhs and Rs. 0·32 lakh as compared with Rs. 41·42 lakhs and Rs. 0·32 lakh. The increase in imports was distributed among apparel, machinery and millwork, stationery, hardware, instruments, drugs and medicines.

Treasure

191. Imports of treasure amounted to Rs. 17·50 lakhs as against Rs. 8·24 lakhs in the previous year. Imports of gold consisting mainly of sovereigns from Ceylon rose from Rs. 1·61 lakhs to Rs. 4·45 lakhs, and of silver, comprising mostly bullion from the United Kingdom and the United States of America, from Rs. 6·63 lakhs to Rs. 13·05 lakhs. Exports of treasure amounted to Rs. 33·79 lakhs as against Rs. 3·20 lakhs in 1925-26. Exports of gold decreased from Rs. 1·47 lakhs to Rs. 0·20 lakh, while exports of silver rose considerably from Rs. 1·73 lakhs to Rs. 33·59 lakhs, consisting mainly of Government of India rupees sent to Ceylon.

Trade by countries

192. The trade with the United Kingdom represented 37·41 per cent of the aggregate trade of the Presidency as compared with 35·55 per cent in 1925-26. It declined by Rs. 17·27 lakhs in value to Rs. 22·17 crores. The trade with the British Empire was 58·86 per cent of the total trade of the Presidency as against 53·30 per cent in the previous year and that with foreign countries 41·14 per cent, Europe accounting for 26·48 per cent, Asia 7·79 per cent and America 6·81 per cent, as against 29·89,

10·39 and 6·31 per cent, respectively, in the previous year.

Coasting trade

193. The aggregate value of the coasting trade declined from Rs. 34·14 crores to Rs. 32·14 crores or by nearly 6 per cent, Rs. 31·18 crores representing private merchandise and Rs. 96·29 lakhs Government stores and treasure. Imports of Indian merchandise fell from Rs. 18·62 crores to Rs. 16 crores and those of foreign merchandise rose from Rs. 2·43 crores to Rs. 2·98 crores. Exports of Indian and foreign merchandise amounted to Rs. 11·92 crores and Rs. 0·28 crore respectively, as against Rs. 11·14 crores and Rs. 0·20 crore in 1925–26.

Trade by ports

194. The value of the sea-borne trade on private account at the port of Madras represented 46·4 per cent of the aggregate trade of the Presidency as against 43·8 per cent in the previous year, and amounted in value to Rs. 41·97 crores as against Rs. 41·76 crores in 1925. Foreign trade expanded from Rs. 32·69 crores to Rs. 33·13 crores or by 1·35 per cent. The total foreign trade of the subordinate ports declined from Rs. 30·25 crores to Rs. 26·13 crores. Tuticorin continued to maintain its premier position among subordinate ports with 11·15 per cent of the provincial trade, valued at Rs. 90·44 crores. With the exception of Madras, Dhanushkodi, Cannanore and Badagara, which enjoyed increased trade, all ports showed a decline.

Shipping

Foreign trade

195. The total number of vessels entered and cleared increased from 2,835 to 2,963 and their total tonnage from 3·98 million tons to 4·23 million tons. British vessels accounted for 72 per cent of the total tonnage and British Indian and native craft for 2 per cent. The average tonnage of British vessels was 3,178 and that of foreign vessels 4,005. The rate of freight on groundnut kernels was much affected by the extreme shortage of tonnage from July to December, resulting from the British coal strike. There was a steady rise in the monthly rate of freight from 15*s.* in April to 47*s.* 6*d.* in December. By the end of December, however, the coal situation in England was easier and there was more tonnage

in the market, with the result that by March 1927 the rate had dropped to 32*s.* 6*d.*

On castor seeds, the rate for New York was 25*s.* at the beginning of the year and advanced gradually to 40*s.* in December and January in harmony with homeward freights. This rate held till the end of March 1927.

The rate on cotton remained unchanged throughout the year at 38*s.* per ton of 50 cubic feet. The number of entries from coasting ports decreased from 16,055 aggregating 7,701,486 tons to 14,543 of 7,968,594 tons. The number of clearances to coasting ports was 14,621 amounting to 8,135,362 tons as against 16,044 of 7,758,307 tons in 1925-26. Twenty-two vessels aggregating 581 tons were built and registered during the year, mainly at Mangalore and Calicut.

PUBLIC WORKS

[*Administration Report of the Public Works Department, Madras Presidency, for the year 1926-27*]

Administrative changes

196. In addition to the headworks circle constituted in 1925-26, two more circles of superintendence, viz., the canal circle and the machinery circle, were constituted during the year for the execution of the Cauvery-Mettur project. A new circle called the Tanjore circle, comprising the South Arcot division of the old Coimbatore circle, the Cauvery, the Vennar, the river conservancy and the special irrigation divisions of the old Trichinopoly circle was also constituted, mainly for the execution of the programme of works recommended by the Cauvery committee. Guntūr division was reformed and now includes the Guntūr subdivision, formerly in the Kistna western division, and the Tank subdivision, previously included in the Gōdāvari western subdivision. The Kattalai special division in the Trichinopoly circle which had been constituted in 1925 was abolished during the year. A new subdivision named the Taptapani ghat road subdivision was formed late in the year for the execution of the

Ghat Road works. The Tuticorin water works subdivision, which was abolished in 1922, was revived during the year.

Chief Engineer's office (Buildings and Roads)

Consulting Architect's Section

197. The Consulting Architect's section was as usual engaged in preparing drawings and estimates for important buildings. Among the important designs prepared in the section were those for the Madras University Library, the Madras General Hospital remodelling scheme, the new court-house for the Court of Small Causes, Madras, and the district courts of Vizagapatam and Anantapur. The value of buildings for which detailed estimates were prepared was about Rs. 26 lakhs, excluding approximate estimates prepared for administrative purposes. In the Deputy Consulting Architect's section, the value of buildings designed, including educational schemes, amounted to about Rs. 70 lakhs. One hundred and three plans of educational buildings were scrutinized during the year.

Technical section

In the Technical Section, 116 estimates of the total value of Rs. 177·88 lakhs were scrutinized. Of these, 58 estimates related to buildings, 17 to water-supply schemes, 3 to drainage schemes, 22 to bridges and causeways and 7 to roads. There were in addition 9 miscellaneous schemes. Among the estimates scrutinized there were 54 estimates costing over a lakh of rupees each.

Electrical works

Two hundred and twenty-six new works were in progress during the year as against 209 in the previous year; the expenditure on original works was Rs. 1·57 lakhs as against Rs. 1·48 lakhs in the previous year. The total value of all Government installations in charge of the Department was Rs. 24·31 lakhs and the amount spent on their maintenance was Rs. 1·29 lakhs, as against Rs. 1·19 lakhs in the previous year. The charges for maintenance amounted to 5·3 per cent as in the previous year, in spite of the increase in the value of installations.

CIVIL WORKS (1926-27)

Works

198. The total expenditure on civil works for the year (works and repairs under all heads) including expenditure on deposit works but excluding irrigation works, was Rs. 92·57 lakhs as compared with Rs. 82·75 lakhs in the previous year.

Buildings

The total expenditure on the King George Hospital, Vizagapatam, up to the end of the year was Rs. 7·94 lakhs as against the estimated cost of Rs. 11·12 lakhs. The works that were in progress during the year were the maternity ward, matron's and nurses' quarters and quarters for servants, engine-drivers and other employees. The construction of the Medical College, Vizagapatam was almost completed, the items still remaining to be done being the water-supply and electric fittings to the main block. A sum of Rs. ·97 lakh was spent up to the end of the year on the Medical School and Hospital buildings, Guntūr, against the estimated cost of Rs. 9·10 lakhs. The Government Secondary and Training School for Mistresses, Mangalore, estimated to cost Rs. 1·48 lakhs, was nearly completed. A sum of Rs. 1·28 lakhs was spent on improvements to the spinning plant in the Central Jail, Coimbatore, estimated to cost Rs. 4 lakhs. Fair progress was made in the construction of the additional blocks for the Central Record Office, Madras and for the Rāyapuram Medical School. The court-house for the Court of Small Causes, Madras, estimated to cost Rs. 6·37 lakhs, the new court-house for the district judge, Kurnool, estimated to cost Rs. 1·22 lakhs, and additions and alterations to the Secretariat and Legislative Council Buildings, estimated to cost Rs. 1·36 lakhs, were commenced during the year. The police lines for the A-1 and A-2 Divisions, Madras, estimated to cost Rs. 1·51 lakhs, were completed with the exception of the water and drainage connections. The main building of the quarters for the D Division Police was completed and handed over to the Police Department. A total expenditure amounting to Rs. 4·21 lakhs was incurred up to the end of the year on the re-construction of the Leper Settlement at

Tirumani, against the estimated cost of Rs. 4·49 lakhs. A total expenditure of Rs. 1·32 lakhs was incurred during the year on the quarters for the Armed Reserve Police, Trichinopoly, against the estimated cost of Rs. 1·76 lakhs.

Roads and bridges

The re-construction of the Kuttupozha bridge, estimated to cost Rs. 1·15 lakhs, was commenced and the improvements to the Cauvery bridge at Trichinopoly were completed during the year. Work on the construction of the bridge across the Kolab river and on the re-construction of the Coleroon bridge, which was commenced in 1925–26, was continued and sums of Rs. ·42 lakh and of Rs. 3·66 lakhs, respectively, were spent on them. A sum of Rs. 1·92 lakhs was spent on the work of converting the railway bridge over the Hagari river at Bellary into a combined road and railway bridge and the formation of an approach road, against an estimated cost of Rs. 2·10 lakhs.

The water-supply schemes for the towns of Coimbatore, Bellary, Anantapur and Tuticorin were in progress during the year. A sum of Rs. 2·97 lakhs was spent on the Madura Drainage Scheme, bringing the total expenditure to Rs. 39·75 lakhs against the estimated cost of Rs. 44·25 lakhs.

Workshops

199. The value of work done in the workshops of the Public Works Department at Madras, Dowlaishwaram and Bezwada during the year amounted to Rs. 8·10 lakhs, an appreciable increase over last year's outturn of Rs. 6·35 lakhs.

ELECTRICITY (1926–27)

Development

200. The electric supply undertakings in the Presidency continued to be maintained and in some cases were developed during the year. It is hoped that there will be a greater and more rapid expansion in the near future, particularly in view of the development of the great water power resources of the Presidency now engaging the serious attention of the Government. The licensees for Kanadukathan and Devakottai extended

their supply during the year ; the Bellary municipal council took over the Bellary electric supply undertaking and arranged to give a full 24 hours' supply in Bellary and the adjoining areas ; the licensees for Madura and Trichinopoly -Srirangam proceeded with construction work in pursuance of their licences, while in Coimbatore town, Nellichery, Tanjore, Waltair and the Anamalai Hills supplies were sold on a small scale by private persons and estate owners.

Investigation

Following the policy of Government of encouraging local bodies to undertake the installation of local electric supply schemes, the municipal councils of Kurnool, Palacole and Tanjore applied to Government for technical assistance in the investigation of their respective schemes. Investigation was made and the municipal councils in question were supplied with preliminary schemes together with plans and estimates.

A new electric testing laboratory, necessitated by the increasing number of electric supply undertakings in the Presidency, has been constructed and is being equipped with machinery, plant and other accessories.

Licences

Three applications for licences to supply electricity in Virudhunagar (in Rāmnād), Calicut and Bezwada were made during the year and were under the consideration of the Government.

Accidents

There were eight accidents during the year— three trivial, three serious and two fatal.

Madras City

The application of the Madras Electric Supply Corporation for an extension of their licence to include supply to the suburbs of South Adyar, Mambalam, Saidapet, Guindy and St. Thomas' Mount remained under the consideration of the Government in respect of the conditions to be prescribed.

The Indian Electricity Act, 1910

With a view to provide for the changed conditions of the electrical industry in India and to remove the difficulties experienced in working the Act, the question of revising the Act and the rules framed thereunder was examined during the year.

BOILERS (1926-27)

201. The number of boilers inspected during the year was 1,750 as compared with 1,633 in the previous year, and 1,412 certificates were issued. Six certificates were refused owing to the defective condition of the boilers.

In addition to the boilers examined under the Indian Boilers Act, 1923, ten boilers in floating vessels belonging to the Port Department, eighteen boilers in floating vessels on inland water ways and six boilers at the Rodier Mill, Pondicherry, were inspected.

Accidents

There were nine minor accidents during the year ; no injury was caused to any person nor damage done to property.

The receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 69,456, comprising fees for the inspection of boilers (Rs. 57,581) and contributions from municipalities for the inspection of water-works machinery (Rs. 11,875). The charges exceeded the receipts by Rs. 1,978, excluding the leave salary paid to officers while on leave in England. Including this amount, the charges exceeded the receipts by Rs. 20,743. The question of enhancing the scale of inspection fees so as to cover the approximate net cost of the Department was under consideration.

CANALS (1926-27)

202. Navigation was carried on as usual on the Dumagudem, Gōdāvari, Kistna, Kurnool-Cuddapah, Buckingham, West Coast and Vēdāranniyam canals. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 3·58 lakhs, an increase of Rs. ·05 lakh over the figure of last year. The increase occurred chiefly in the Gōdāvari canals in fees for annual licences.

IRRIGATION (1926-27)

Gross expenditure and revenue

203. The expenditure incurred on irrigation works (including capital expenditure or new works) rose from Rs. 125·22 lakhs to Rs. 183·81 lakhs. The revenue from irrigated lands fell from Rs. 296·37 lakhs to Rs. 280·75 lakhs. The area charged as irrigated was 7,012,943 acres or 399,936 acres less than the figure for last year. Productive works showed a return of 10·64 per cent on the capital outlay as compared with 12·17 per cent in the previous year and 9·55 per cent twenty-five years ago, i.e., in 1901-02.

Irrigation works

204. Works for which capital and revenue accounts are kept are divided into (*a*) irrigation works and (*b*) navigation, embankment and drainage works, each class being sub-divided into "productive" and "unproductive." The classification of a work as productive or unproductive is based upon the financial results of three consecutive years.

Productive works—Capital outlay

The capital outlay on "irrigation works—productive" (direct and indirect) rose from Rs. 28·63 lakhs to Rs. 77·60 lakhs and was expended chiefly on the Polavaram island project, the Kistna and the Cauvery delta systems, the Cauvery-Mettur project and the Kattalai scheme. In the Polavaram island project the sinking of wells in connection with the construction of the aqueduct, the excavation of channels and the widening of the bank canal were in progress. In the Kistna delta system the work of replacing the existing 3 feet shutters of the Kistna anicut at Bezwada by 6 feet shutters was completed, while work was continued on the construction of locks and regulators across the Ellore and Bandar canals and the diversion of the Nallamada drain. In the Cauvery delta system the important works in progress were the improvements to the lower reaches of the Cauvery, the construction of a road dam between mile 14/7 and mile 16/1 on the Cauvery left flood bank above the Grand anicut, the erection of new scouring sluices to the Grand anicut and the construction of a bed regulator in the Cauvery above the Grand anicut. Good progress

was made in the preliminary and preparatory works of the Cauvery-Mettur project, including the formation of a standing camp to house 5,000 coolies at Mettur, the construction of quarters for officers, subordinates and other establishment, the provision of a protected water-supply and the canal and distributary alignment and demarcation of lands. Good progress was also made on the "coffer dam" (a low concrete walled enclosure to enable work to be commenced in the river bed as soon as possible after the flood season) as well as in the excavation of foundations for the main dam. The excavation of the south bank canal connected with the Kattalai scheme was completed and the channel was opened for irrigation during the year.

The total area under first and second crop charged as irrigated was 3,267,145 acres and 502,455 acres respectively as against 3,235,625 acres and 531,965 acres in the previous year.

Revenue and working expenses (Productive works)

The gross revenue and working expenses amounted to Rs. 186·88 lakhs and Rs. 50·53 lakhs respectively, as against Rs. 185·47 lakhs and Rs. 45·98 lakhs in the previous year. The net revenue due to improvements was Rs. 88·62 lakhs as against Rs. 91·87 lakhs in the previous year, representing a return of 10·64 per cent on the capital outlay of Rs. 8·33 crores as against 12·17 per cent in 1925-26. After deducting interest charges the profit for the year was Rs. 61·42 lakhs, as against Rs. 67·79 lakhs in the previous year, and the accumulated profits up to the end of the year amounted to Rs. 26·20 crores. Compared with the previous year the gross revenue showed an increase of Rs. 1·41 lakhs. This occurred chiefly under the Gōdāvari and the Kistna delta systems and was due to the increase in the extent irrigated under both first and second crop and to the decrease in the amount of remissions granted during the year.

Unproductive works—Capital outlay

The capital outlay on "irrigation works—unproductive" (direct and indirect) was Rs. 0·09 lakh, incurred chiefly in connection with the Rushikulya system. The area under first and

second crop charged as irrigated was 249,548 acres and 16,370 acres respectively, as against 242,753 acres and 19,964 acres in the previous year.

Revenue and working expenses (Unproductive works)

The gross revenue and working expenses amounted to Rs. 9·83 lakhs and Rs. 4·48 lakhs as against Rs. 9·81 lakhs and Rs. 4·05 lakhs, respectively, in the previous year. Of the net revenue of Rs. 5·35 lakhs the portion due to improvements was Rs. 3·71 lakhs. After deducting interest charges the deficit for the year was Rs. 9·51 lakhs.

Remissions

The remissions granted under "productive" and "unproductive" works amounted to Rs. 2,56,477 and Rs. 33,406 respectively, as against Rs. 1,55,226 and Rs. 15,571 in the previous year. The areas affected were mainly the Gōdāvari delta, the Pālār anicut systems and the Barur tank.

Navigation works—Unproductive

205. There were three works under this class, viz., the Ganjām-Gōpālpūr canal, the Buckingham canal and the Vēdāranniyam canal. The gross receipts and charges amounted to Rs. 76,522 and Rs. 3,32,381 respectively, as against Rs. 78,883 and Rs. 3,41,221 in the previous year. There was thus a loss of Rs. 2,55,859 to Government on the working of the canals as against a loss of Rs. 2,62,338 in 1925-26.

Irrigation works for which capital and revenue accounts are not kept

206. The outlay on this class of works, including that incurred by officers of and accounted for by the Civil Department, was Rs. 38·12 lakhs as against Rs. 33·30 lakhs in the previous year.

The area charged as irrigated fell from 3,382,572 acres to 2,977,425 acres, owing to the unfavourable character of the season, and the revenue inclusive of the amount collected by the Public Works Department was Rs. 82·63 lakhs as against Rs. 99·74 lakhs in the previous year.

Tank Restoration Scheme

The total area coming within the scope of the tank restoration scheme investigation was 102,500 square miles. During the year 677 square miles were investigated, bringing the total to 85,872 square miles. An area of 447 square miles was entered upon during the year. Works were completed for 81,321 square miles of the area investigated, were in progress for 3,413 square miles and were yet to be begun in the remaining

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

1,138 square miles. Estimates for Government works amounting to Rs. 2·22 lakhs were sanctioned. The total amount sanctioned under this head from the beginning of the operations up to the end of the year was Rs. 173·38 lakhs. The expenditure during the year was Rs. 3·09 lakhs, or Rs. 4·00 lakhs including percentage charges.

Works for which capital and revenue accounts are not kept

207. The outlay incurred on navigation, embankment and drainage works for which capital and revenue accounts are not kept rose from Rs. 12 38 lakhs to Rs. 12·90 lakhs and the revenue from Rs. 0·56 lakh to Rs. 0·63 lakh.

Investigation of projects

208. An estimate amounting to Rs. 2·89 lakhs for improvements to the Girisola channel in the Ganjām district was sanctioned. The proposals under consideration last year for fitting higher shutters to the Gōdāvari anicut were abandoned as likely to prove unprofitable. The alternative proposal to provide travelling cranes for lifting the shutters more quickly to ensure an increased supply under the system was approved and estimates were under preparation. The estimate for the Coringa island project was revised. In the Kistna district proposals were under investigation for the construction of inlets and outlets in the Ellore canal for the disposal of the flood waters of the Budameru and for the extension of the East Bank canal for the irrigation of about 22,000 acres of dry land. On the recommendation of the Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee, the Tungabhadra project was revived and an examination of the dam site was made by a geologist specially deputed for the purpose. The investigation of the Kannepalli project for utilizing the low supplies in the Hagari river for the irrigation of about 1,000 acres in Kannepalli village, Anantapur district, was completed and plans and estimates were under preparation. The estimates for the Thokapalli project in the Kurnool district were under revision. Of the two alternative schemes,—the Upper and the Lower Bhavani projects in the Coimbatore district—the former was preferred as more suitable to the

district and the report of the special officer appointed to investigate the revenue aspects of the scheme was under the consideration of the Board of Revenue. The estimate for re-modelling the Kalingaroyan channel was deferred pending a decision on the Upper Bhavani project. Proposals for remodelling the Arkankota, Thadapalli and Amaravati channels were examined by the local officers with reference to certain objections raised by the ryots to the proposals as affecting existing irrigation. Proposals to relieve the Mudavanar from the drainage difficulties in the Shiyali taluk also engaged attention, and the irrigation and drainage facilities in the middle section of the Tirutturaippundi taluk were investigated with a view to effecting improvements.

Floods

209. The Pillaperu aqueduct at the eighth mile of the Mopad main channel in Nellore gave way in September 1926, but the cracks were closed with the greatest promptitude and the crops saved. An estimate for rebuilding the cracked arches was prepared and the work started. Owing to heavy floods in the Tungabhadra, there was a breach in the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal and prompt measures were taken to close it. Sudden floods also occurred in the Pennar in June and September 1926 and caused damage to the downstream apron of the Pennar anicut, improvements to which were then in progress. A subsidence occurred during the year under report in the Cauvery dam at the Upper Anicut for a length of 300 ft., where the heavy floods of 1924 had scoured out the old foundations. Necessary protective works were carried out expeditiously, before the arrival of the first freshes. The retaining wall on the left margin of the Vennar constructed in connection with the improvements to the Jambu-Cauvery channel collapsed on two occasions owing to an unexpected scour on the river side. The collapsed portion was immediately reconstructed.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT

210. Preliminary reports with estimates were prepared early in the year for three hydro-electric schemes on the Western Ghats—Pykara, Pinjikavi and Pāpanāsam. These were scrutinized by Messrs. Merz & McLellan, Consulting Engineers to the Railway Board, and on their recommendation the Government appointed a committee to enquire into the possibilities of demand for electric power in South India and have since sanctioned the appointment of a Chief Engineer for hydro-electric development. Investigation work in connection with the three schemes was continued throughout the year.

TRAMWAYS (1926–27)

211. The Madras Electric Tramways is the only system in the Presidency.

During the year, 88 tramcars, one special car and one car for carrying road metal were in operation, the daily average number of cars in use being 63. The cars ran a total distance of 2,009,447 miles and carried 10,084,266 passengers. This figure shows a decrease of over 5 million passengers as compared with last year's figure, which was undoubtedly due to the startling growth of motor bus traffic. The Tramway management has itself taken part in this development and during the year under report ran an average of 35 buses each day and carried 2,675,565 passengers, counterbalancing to some extent the decline on the tramcars.

CHAPTER V

REVENUE AND FINANCE (1926-27)

[*Statistical Abstract for British India—Finance*]

REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN MUNICIPAL

(a) GROSS REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue and expenditure

212. The following statements give the figures for each of the past two years of Central and Provincial revenue and expenditure as well as the capital expenditure on State Railways, Irrigation Works, Civil Works, etc., not charged to Revenue, but excluding expenditure on such heads as Army and Posts and Telegraphs :—

A.—Central and Provincial Funds—Receipts.

Heads of account.	Central.		Provincial.	
	1925-26.	1926-27.	1925-26.	1926-27.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS
I. Customs	5,68,69,258	4,07,58,727	...	...
II. Taxes on Income	1,37,11,617	1,23,12,964	4,27,084	4,64,528
II. Salt	1,47,59,343	1,43,01,311	...	...
IV. Opium	5,98,479	...	...	...
V. Land Revenue	...	...	7,70,70,273	7,54,31,549
VI. Excise	...	...	4,94,34,984	5,10,52,696
VII. Stamps—				
A. Non-Judicial	...	...	99,31,471	1,02,11,842
B. Judicial	...	...	1,45,76,814	1,50,18,254
VIII. Forest	...	...	51,81,359	56,23,960
IX. Registration	...	...	38,60,432	40,52,920
X. Tributes from Indian States	9,96,519	9,96,519	...	...
XI. State Railways—				
Gross receipts	*13,66,24,451*	*13,67,72,246*	...	
Deduct—Working expenses	*8,84,41,664*	*8,37,41,554*	...	
Net receipts	4,81,82,787	5,30,30,692	...	
XII. Subsidized Companies ...	34	24,180	...	

A.—*Central and Provincial Funds—Receipts*—cont.

Heads of account.	Central.		Provincial.	
	1925-26.	1926-27.	1925-26.	1926-27.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.
XIII. Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works for which capital accounts are kept	...	...	(—) 35,78,605	(—) 42,17,605
XIV. Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works for which capital accounts are not kept	...	...	1,22,151	1,12,660
XVI. Interest	7,41,787	6,68,194	16,20,883	20,86,362
XVII. Administration of Justice.	...	...	12,20,514	12,67,575
XVIII. Jails and Convict Settlements	...	...	8,98,741	8,34,394
XIX. Police	...	...	10,09,502	10,10,012
XX. Ports and Pilotage ...	...	237	...	...
XXI. Education	...	...	6,30,517	6,65,477
XXII. Medical	...	...	3,97,208	4,55,177
XXIII. Public Health	...	...	1,00,375	69,101
XXIV. Agriculture	...	...	2,69,487	2,98,746
XXV. Industries	...	...	11,13,130	9,69,684
XXVI. Miscellaneous Departments	3,47,690	4,09,839	4,41,275	4,62,931
XXVII. Currency	13,983	10,864	...	...
XXX. Civil Works	43,162	17,939	9,67,457	8,37,009
XXXIII. Receipts in aid of Superannuation	2,01,549	1,75,078	6,35,041	6,90,455
XXXIV. Stationery and Printing ...	14,676	9,035	2,55,870	(a) 643 2,66,866
XXXV. Miscellaneous	(—) 2,70,644	(—) 1,38,856	9,18,912	7,03,838
XL. Extraordinary Receipts ...	...	...	17,90,035	...
Total, A ...	11,62,10,240	12,30,76,723	16,92,95,570	16,83,68,774
Contribution to the Central Government by Provincial Government	2,21,98,000	1,65,19,000	(—)2,21,98,000	(—)1,65,19,000
Miscellaneous adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments	(—) 37,830	...	37,830	...
Total including A ...	13,83,70,410	13,95,95,723	14,71,35,400	15,18,49,774
Appropriation for reduction or avoidance of debt	...	...	30,27,448	33,76,479
Suspense Accounts ...	14,80,225	3,47,189	1,89,622	7,44,212
Famine Insurance Fund.	...	...	7,16,513	8,14,892
Loans and advances by Provincial Government	...	...	37,96,691	38,66,714
Advances from Provincial Loans Fund—Government of India ...	...	...	88,61,000	2,01,76,000
Grand Total ...	13,98,50,635	13,99,42,912	16,37,26,674	18,08,28,071

(a) Represents revenue in England accounted for by the High Commissioner for India.

B.—Central and Provincial Funds—Charges

Heads of account.	Central.		Provincial.					
			1925-26.			1926-27.		
	1925-26.	1926-27.	India.	England.	Total.	India.	England.	Total.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
1. Customs	16,05,516	18,00,658	...	...	...	...	...	...
2. Taxes on Income	7,83,557	7,45,963	...	...	...	...	...	...
3. Salt	22,12,744	25,28,379	...	...	...	...	...	...
4. Opium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Land Revenue	...	...	38,30,201	46,125	38,76,326	39,04,346	25,169	39,29,515
6. Excise	...	...	47,20,340	25,353	47,45,693	42,72,160	8,635	42,80,795
7. Stamps	...	...	5,77,810	48,301	6,26,111	5,79,116	1,494	5,80,610
8. Forest	...	...	42,81,038	1,32,673	44,13,711	44,88,933	1,09,222	45,98,155
8-A. Forest Capital outlay charged to Revenue	...	...	4,15,987	...	4,15,987	5,47,911	...	5,47,911
9. Registration	...	...	24,75,405	...	24,75,405	25,58,052	...	25,58,052
10. State Railways	64,37,328	62,90,711	...	...	...	...	...	...
11. Subsidized Companies	(—) 308	2,077	...	...	...	...	...	...
12. Miscellaneous expenditure ...	1,18,102	2,60,519	...	...	...	...	...	...
14. Interest on works for which capital accounts are kept ...	...	...	40,17,955	...	40,17,955	43,36,786	...	43,36,786
15. Other Revenue expenditure financed from ordinary Revenues	...	...	47,31,731	570	47,32,301	50,48,172	1,540	50,49,712
15 (1). Other Revenue expenditure financed from Famine Insurance grants	...	...	5,132	...	5,132	...	...	...
16. Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works	...	...	79,782	...	79,782	5,263	...	5,263
19. Interest on ordinary debt ...	1,04,26,120	1,00,61,520	9,96,690	...	9,96,690	11,41,489	...	11,41,489
20. Interest on other obligations ...	26,89,428	29,97,002	...	...	...	...	...	...
21. Reduction or Avoidance of debt.	...	...	30,27,448	...	30,27,448	33,76,479	...	33,76,479
22. General administration	38,125	38,125	2,21,18,716	5,60,502	2,26,79,218	2,26,03,083	3,95,082	2,29,98,165
23. Audit	6,17,425	6,45,547	...	...	...	...	...	...
24. Administration of Justice ...	...	...	94,32,546	2,02,104	96,34,650	93,58,487	1,92,401	95,50,888
22. Jails and Convict Settlements ...	...	...	29,78,715	22,618	30,01,333	27,92,228	11,368	28,03,596

B.—*Central and Provincial Funds—Charges*—cont.

Heads of account.	Central.		Provincial.					
			1925-26.			1926-27.		
	1925-26.	1926-27.	India.	England.	Total.	Ind.a.	England.	Total.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	Rs.
26. Police	...	252	1,84,21,075	3,66,403	1,87,87,478	1,84,42,140	2,90,770	1,87,32,910
27. Ports and Pilotage	2	...	34,032	...	34,032	33,891	...	33,891
28. Ecclesiastical	3,28,299	2,30,160	...	...	...	...	...	...
29. Political	2,17,687	2,34,149	...	...	...	...	...	...
30. Scientific Departments	...	...	3,10,721	11,880	3,22,601	2,27,898	7,599	2,35,497
31. Education	...	...	1,86,04,404	1,40,116	1,87,44,520	1,97,14,100	1,54,254	1,98,68,354
32. Medical	...	...	56,97,734	2,64,089	59,65,823	62,99,065	2,83,113	65,82,178
33. Public Health	21,944	23,204	32,49,837	65,307	33,15,144	30,39,243	50,386	30,89,629
34. Agriculture	...	...	29,18,382	88,232	30,06,614	31,65,534	82,095	32,47,629
35. Industries	...	...	15,61,013	1,74,536	17,35,549	16,70,003	1,26,193	17,96,196
37. Miscellaneous Departments ...	51,454	54,247	14,88,066	38,680	15,26,746	17,33,867	13,659	17,47,526
38. Currency	3,12,711	2,88,651	...	...	...	...	...	...
41. Civil Works	1,35,406	1,11,556	96,51,930	2,97,844	99,49,774	1,11,50,235	3,36,692	1,14,86,927
43. Famine Relief and Insurance ...	...	...	6,41,566	...	6,41,566	6,61,000	...	6,61,000
44. Territorial and Political Pensions	2,66,541	2,73,713	...	...	...	...	...	...
45. Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	25,05,405	7,42,148	52,65,086	4,69,177	57,34,263	50,50,864	10,06,346	60,57,210
46. Stationery and Printing	40,000	30,919	14,40,459	2,54,467	16,94,926	17,70,432	2,56,907	20,27,339
47. Miscellaneous	20,680	36,137	10,89,332	22,508	11,11,890	3,38,772	28,449	3,67,221
Total expenditure charged to Revenue	2,88,61,166	2,73,95,647	13,40,63,183	32,35,485	13,72,98,668	13,83,09,549	33,81,374	14,16,90,923
52-A. Capital outlay on Forests ...	...	...	1,26,217	...	1,26,217	88,569	...	88,569
53. Construction of Railways ...	3,64,58,936	4,40 30,201	...	...	...	...	...	...
55. Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works	...	...	27,64,650	11,102	27,75,752	72,65,083	4,04,693	76,69,776
56-C. Capital outlay on Industrial Development	...	...	1,97,982	...	1,97,982	1,39,909	...	1,39,909

60. Civil Works	...	...	...	9,03,601	...	9,03,601	7,40,604	...	7,40,604
60-B. Payments of Commuted Value of pensions...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,82,001	...	12,82,001
Total-Capital-Outlay ...	3,04,58,930	4,40,30,201	30,02,440		11,102	40,03,542	95,17,006	4,01,093	99,21,750
Famine Insurance Fund	...	...	1		...	1	15	...	15
Suspense Accounts	15,14,018	3,09,877	1,50,500		...	1,50,500	8,27,181	...	8,27,181
Loans and Advances by Provincial Government	...	...	78,53,829		...	78,53,829	85,00,607	...	85,00,607
Advances from Provincial Loans Fund, Government of India ...	...	...	30,27,448		...	30,27,448	33,76,470	...	33,76,470
Grand Total-(Disbursements) ...	6,08,34,120	7,17,35,725	14,90,87,401		32,46,687	16,23,33,938	16,00,20,957	37,80,067	16,44,13,024

REVENUE AND FINANCE

Cash balance

213. The total joint cash balance of the Central and Provincial Governments held in the Government treasuries (and excluding that held by the Imperial Bank of India) was Rs. 75 lakhs at the beginning and Rs. 66 lakhs at the close of the year.

(*b*) CENTRAL REVENUE AND FINANCE

General

214. The receipts on account of Central Revenue were greater than those of the previous year by Rs. 12,25,313.

There were increased receipts under "Customs" (+38·90 lakhs) and State Railways (+48·48 lakhs). These were counterbalanced to a large extent by decreases mainly in the "Provincial contribution to the Central Government by Provincial Government" (−56·79 lakhs) and in Taxes on Income (−8·99 lakhs).

The Central expenditure charged to Revenue was less than that in 1925–26 by Rs. 14,65,519, the decrease being mainly under "Superannuation Allowances and Pensions" (−17·63 lakhs).

Net receipts from State Railways

215. The increase of Rs. 48·48 lakhs in the net receipts from State Railways was due to a decrease in the working expenses of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and the South Indian Railway.

Expenditure—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions

216. The decrease of Rs. 17·63 lakhs marks a return to normal; in 1925–26 a special adjustment was made in connection with the reimbursement to the Madras Government of certain pension payments that had been erroneously debited to Provincial funds instead of to the Central Government, which did not recur in the year under report.

Capital outlay on State Railways

217. The increase of Rs. 75·71 lakhs in the capital outlay on State Railways not charged to revenue was due to a larger expenditure on lines already under construction such as the Villupuram-Trichinopoly, Virudhunagar-Tenkāsi, Dindigul-Pollachi, Madura-Bodinayakkanūr, Vriddhachalam-Cuddalore, Nidadavole-Narasapur, Hotgi-Sholapur and Gudivāda-Bhīmavaram Railways.

Loans and advances by the Central Government

218. The opening balance under Loans and Advances by the Central Government on the 1st April 1926 was Rs. 1,61,81,300. No advances were made during the year. The repayments during the year amounted to Rs. 20,11,428, the items being Rs. 16,89,837 by the Madras Corporation, Rs. 2,69,417 by the Madras Port Trust and Rs. 52,174 by the Tanjore District Board Railway. The closing balance at the end of the year was Rs. 1,41,69,872.

(c) REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN CENTRAL

Provincial balance

219. The Provincial accounts opened with a balance of Rs. 1,44,48,124 on 1st April 1926 and closed with a balance of Rs. 3,08,63,170 on 31st March 1927.

Provincial revenues

220. The receipts on account of the Provincial Government, after deducting the Provincial contribution to the Central Government, were more than those of the previous year by Rs. 47,14,374. The increase was due chiefly to the reduction of Rs. 56·79 lakhs in the Provincial contribution to the Central Government. There were also increased receipts under certain heads of revenue, the principal items being "Excise" (+ Rs. 16·18 lakhs), "Stamps" (+Rs. 7·21 lakhs), "Forest" (+ Rs. 4·43 lakhs) and "Interest" (+ Rs. 4·65 lakhs). On the other hand there were decreased receipts under the heads "Land Revenue" (— Rs. 16·39 lakhs), "Extraordinary receipts" (— Rs. 17·91 lakhs) and "Irrigation" (— Rs. 6·39 lakhs).

The Provincial expenditure in 1926-27 exceeded that in 1925-26 by Rs. 43,92,255, the increase occurring mainly under "Education" (+ Rs. 11·24 lakhs), "Medical" (+ Rs. 6·16 lakhs) and "Civil Works" (+ Rs. 15·37 lakhs). The increased expenditure under these heads was counterbalanced to some extent by a lesser expenditure under "Excise" (— Rs. 4·65 lakhs) and "Miscellaneous" (— Rs. 7·45 lakhs).

Land revenue

221. The decrease of Rs. 16·39 lakhs under "Land Revenue" in 1926–27 was due partly to the realization in the previous year of a non-recurring item of receipt in the shape of ayacut inclusion

fees (about Rs. 13 lakhs) in the West Gōdāvari and Kistna districts, and partly to an increase in seasonal remissions and to the postponement of collections beyond the financial year in certain districts as a result of the failure of the north-east monsoon.

Extra-ordinary receipts

222. The sum of Rs. 17·91 lakhs appearing under "Extraordinary Receipts" in 1925–26 represents the reimbursement to the Madras Government of certain pension payments made at the Bangalore and Trivandrum treasuries which were erroneously debited to Provincial funds instead of to the Central Government during the years 1921–22 to 1924–25. This was a special item of receipt in 1925–26 and did not recur in the year under report.

Taxes on income

223. Under rule 15 of the Devolution Rules, the provincial share of the income-tax receipts adjusted in 1926–27 amounted to Rs. 4·64 lakhs as against Rs. 4·27 lakhs in 1925–26.

Excise

224. The revenue from "Excise" rose from Rs. 494·35 lakhs in 1925–26 to Rs. 510·53 lakhs in 1926–27. The increase of Rs. 16·18 lakhs was mainly due to the increased consumption of country spirits and to the higher rentals realized from the sale of arrack and toddy shops.

(For further information about Excise revenue, see under "Opium, Excise and Stamps".)

Stamps

225. There was a total increase of Rs. 7·21 lakhs in the receipts for 1926–27 as compared with the previous year, consisting of increases of Rs. 2·80 lakhs under "Non-judicial stamps" and of Rs. 4·41 lakhs under "Judicial stamps."

Forest

226. The increase of Rs. 4·43 lakhs in the revenue under "Forest" as compared with the previous year was due chiefly to the adjustment in 1926–27 of the profits from the Nilambur and Mount Stuart forests, which have been treated as commercial concerns, and to the extraction by Government agency and sale of a larger quantity of timber and other forest produce.

Irrigation

227. The decreased receipts of Rs. 6·39 lakhs under "Irrigation" were due to an increase in

working expenses, which are debited against receipts.

Interest

228. The increased receipts of Rs. 4·65 lakhs accrued mainly from the loans to Presidency Corporations (including Port Trusts) and to cultivators.

Industries

229. The decrease in the receipts under "Industries" (— 1·43 lakhs) was mainly due to the fall in the profits realized from Government commercial undertakings; while in part it represents a return to normal, large amounts which were not an ordinary item of receipt having been realized in the previous year from the pearl fishery operations at Tuticorin.

Miscellaneous

230. The decrease of Rs. 2·15 lakhs as compared with the previous year was mainly due to the fact that the receipts of 1925-26 included a special credit of Rs. 1·61 lakhs as the cost of stores and animals of His Excellency the Governor's Bodyguard which was charged to the Madras Government in 1922-23 but which the Government of India subsequently decided to debit to Central revenues.

Canal revenue

231. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 3·58 lakhs or Rs. ·05 lakh more than in the previous year.

Provincial expenditure

Excise

232. The decrease (— Rs. 4·65 lakhs) under "Excise" in 1926-27 as compared with the previous year was due partly to the reduction in the cost price of opium supplied to the Excise Department from Rs. 28 to Rs. 26 per seer and partly to the lesser quantity of opium purchased during the year.

Education

233. The increased expenditure (+ Rs. 11·24 lakhs) under "Education" occurred mainly under "University" and "Primary" education. The increase under "University" education was due to the grant made to the Madras and Andhra Universities; while the increase under "Primary" education was due to grants having been made to a larger number of local bodies under the Madras Elementary Education Act, to the larger teaching grants earned by aided schools, to the provision of a complete year's expenditure for schools opened

in the previous year and to the larger provision for elementary education.

Medical

234. The increased expenditure of Rs. 6·16 lakhs in 1926–27 was due mainly to the reorganization of the nursing staff and to the increase in staff in certain Government headquarter hospitals, to the grant of subsidies to local boards for the opening of a large number of new rural dispensaries and to increased building grants to local bodies and private institutions.

Civil works

235. The increase of Rs. 15·37 lakhs as compared with the previous year was mainly due to the commencement of a large number of new works and to the payment made to the Military Department for the cost of land and buildings taken over for the Hosur cattle farm.

Miscellaneous

236. The decrease of Rs. 7·45 lakhs was due to the absence in this year's expenditure of a special item of debit in last year's expenditure on account of the remission of loans to persons who suffered by the Mappilla rebellion.

Construction of irrigation, etc., works

237. The increase of Rs. 48·94 lakhs over the previous year's expenditure represents the larger outlay incurred in 1926-27 in connection with the Cauvery-Mettur project.

Payments of commuted value of pensions

238. With effect from 1926-27, payments on account of the commuted value of pensions which were previously recorded in the revenue section of the accounts under the major head "Superannuation Allowances and Pensions" were debited to the new major head "Payment of commuted value of pensions" in the capital section of the accounts. The actual expenditure incurred in 1926–27 was Rs. 12·83 lakhs.

Famine relief and insurance

239. Under Schedule IV of the Devolution Rules, the Provincial Government is required to make an annual provision of Rs. 6·61 lakhs in the budget estimate for the relief of, and insurance against, famine. The amount is to be expended only for the relief of famine, the construction of protective irrigation works or other works for the prevention of famine, or for the grant of loans to cultivators. Any portion of the amount which

is not required for these purposes is utilized for building up a famine insurance fund. The balance at the credit of the fund is regarded as invested with the Government of India, who pay interest on it; and it will be available, when necessary, for expenditure on any of the objects mentioned above.

The opening balance at the credit of the fund on 1st April 1926 was Rs. 21,42,395. In the year under report an expenditure of Rs. 1,879 was incurred on famine relief and the balance of the famine insurance grant (Rs. 6,61,000—Rs. 1,879 = Rs. 6,59,121) was transferred to the famine insurance fund. The total amount credited to the fund during the year, including interest on the amount at the credit of the fund, recoveries of famine expenditure and repayments of the principal and interest on loans granted to agriculturists, was Rs. 1,55,755. The closing balance at the end of the year thus amounted to Rs. 29,57,271.

Loans and advances by the Provincial Government

240. The Provincial Advance and Loan Account (including loans to local boards for railway construction) opened with a balance of Rs. 335·64 lakhs and closed with a balance of Rs. 382·94 lakhs. Advances to cultivators sanctioned in 1926-27 amounted to Rs. 26·83 lakhs as against Rs. 28·53 lakhs in the previous year. A loan of Rs. ·29 lakh was also sanctioned under the State Aid to Industries Act. Loans were also granted to the Madras Corporation (Rs. 4 lakhs), the Cochin Port Conservancy Board (Rs. 4·50 lakhs) and the Tuticorin Port Trust (Rs. 6 lakhs). The loans granted to mufassal municipalities and local boards for the construction of bridges, drainage works, markets, hospitals and similar works amounted to Rs. 29·96 lakhs. Advances amounting to Rs. 1·38 lakhs were granted to the Board of Commissioners under the Hindu Religious Endowments Act. Advances for the purchase of house-sites for Ādi-Drāvidas amounted to Rs. 7·08 lakhs (the sum includes Rs. 4·71 lakhs advanced to co-operative societies for this purpose). Loans to house-building co-operative societies and Kallar co-operative societies amounting to Rs. 3·63 lakhs and Rs. 1·79 lakhs respectively were also

disbursed during the year. Loans were also sanctioned to co-operative sale societies (Rs. ·06 lakh), fishermen co-operative societies (Rs. ·03 lakh) and land mortgage banks (Rs. ·42 lakh).

Loans between Central and Provincial Governments

241. The advances obtained by the Provincial Government from the Provincial Loans Fund under rule 25 of the Devolution Rules to meet capital and other miscellaneous expenditure amounted to Rs. 2,01,76,000, carrying interest at 5 per cent per annum, while the amount repaid to the Provincial Loans Fund amounted to Rs. 33,76,479 and was made up of Rs. 9,50,000 on account of the annual instalment in repayment of the outstanding balances of the Provincial Advance and Loan Account and Rs. 24,26,479 in repayment of the outstanding balances of the advances taken in 1921-22, 1922-23, 1923-24, 1924-25 and 1925-26 to meet capital and other miscellaneous expenditure.

Local funds

242. The following table summarizes the transaction of funds raised from special sources and devoted to special objects and not to general purposes of administration (Central and Provincial).

Statement showing the transactions of Local Funds for the year 1926-27

Name of fund.	Opening balance on 1st April 1926.	Receipts.	Charges.	Closing balance on 31st March 1927 (cash).	Government securities.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Cantonment Funds ..	35,503 12 6	1,32,496 8 7	1,32,130 6 11	35,869 14 2	...
Secunderabad Civil Hospital Fund ...	21,040 3 2	1,56,228 14 2	1,49,988 10 6	27,280 6 10	...
Secunderabad Local Abkari, etc., Fund.	5,50,372 0 8	20,84,280 12 0	22,48,250 14 9	3,86,401 13 11	...
Hyderabad Residency Bazaar Fund ...	1,62,863 12 2	1,75,270 8 5	1,89,239 8 5	1,48,853 12 2	...
Madras Port Fund ...	35,885 9 7	2,29,574 4 5	2,59,820 13 5	5,639 0 0	24,200 0 0
Minor Ports Fund ...	3,57,045 0 2	7,01,437 0 1	7,75,982 4 3	2,82,499 12 0	21,35,610 0 0
Cochin Port Fund ...	51,296 7 4	1,10,135 7 1	1,07,647 6 9	53,784 7 8	3,03,490 0 0
Tuticorin Port Fund.	1,02,825 7 2	1,36,595 10 6	2,15,910 6 3	23,510 11 5	1,06,000 0 0
Tuticorin Port Trust Fund	5,09,196 1 11	10,29,412 6 6	8,12,902 11 4	8,15,705 13 1	12,000 0 0
Vizagapatam Port Fund	16,335 11 6	82,509 5 0	88,936 12 5	9,858 4 1	25,300 0 0
Minor Pilotage Funds	4,224 1 2	13,732 0 0	13,627 4 11	4,328 12 3	1,80,990 0 0
Landing and Shipping Dues Funds ...	10,66,966 0 5	14,94,086 0 11	10,70,660 9 5	5,90,391 7 11	13,63,050 0 0
Madras Coast Lights Fund	2,39,924 10 10	3,03,139 8 6	3,62,604 14 3	1,80,459 5 1	5,53,700 0 0

Statement showing the transactions of Local Funds for the year 1926–27—cont.

Name of fund.	Opening balance on 1st April 1926.	Receipts.	Charges.	Closing balance on 31st March 1927 (cash).	Government securities.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Lightkeepers' Recreation and Benefit Fund ...	3,127 12 11	4,090 0 10	5,184 3 7	2,033 10 2	11,930 0 0
Tuticorin Port Trust Provident Fund ...	157 11 0	887 1 0	175 10 0	869 2 0	175 0 0
University Fee Fund.	1,71,430 6 8	6,57,632 10 9	6,55,111 14 11	1,73,951 2 6	12,51,800 0 0
Kumbakonam College Hostel Fund	4,821 11 11	12,588 11 0	13,128 12 5	4,281 10 6	...
Mrs. A. V. Narasinga Rao's College Fund.	9,797 6 2	43,266 2 10	43,394 11 9	9,668 13 3	1,00,200 0 0
Bhadrachalam-Nugur Special Fund	11,164 14 9	9,778 4 4	8,543 10 3	12,399 8 10	...
Irrigation Cess Fund.	48,023 3 11	67,784 6 3	67,036 1 3	48,776 8 11	...

243. For information about Local Funds constituted under Act V of 1884, see supra Chapter III—Local Boards Administration.

CUSTOMS (1926–27)

244. The total revenue receipts of the Presidency increased from Rs. 373·83 lakhs to Rs. 412·05 lakhs or by about 10 per cent. The total disbursements throughout the Presidency also increased from Rs. 21,19,278 to Rs. 22,47,349. Finance

The number of cases dealt with under the Sea Customs Act (including those under the Merchandise Marks Act) was 1,578 as against 1,851 in the previous year. Offences

SALT

245. The season of 1926 was on the whole favourable for salt manufacture. In view of the failure of manufacture owing to unfavourable conditions in the previous two seasons and of the low stock of salt at the beginning of October 1925, special steps were taken to begin manufacture in the 1926 season at the earliest possible date in each factory and to work all cultivable holdings to their full extent. These efforts, aided Manufacture

REVENUE AND FINANCE

by favourable weather conditions, have made manufacture in the 1926 season a success in almost all the factories in the Presidency. Monopoly factories also were worked to their full capacity during the year. The result of these measures was an increase in stocks at the end of the year of 11½ lakhs of maunds over the stocks at the close of the previous year. The quantity of salt manufactured during the year was 131 lakhs of maunds, 39½ lakhs of maunds more than the quantity produced in 1925. Of this quantity, 30 lakhs of maunds belonged to Government and the balance to the licensees. The stock on hand at the beginning of the year was 46¾ lakhs of maunds and the quantity imported during the year, mainly from Bombay, was 17¾ lakhs of maunds. The total stock of salt available for consumption was thus 195½ lakhs of maunds. The quantity issued during the year amounted to nearly 136 lakhs of maunds as against 137½ lakhs of maunds in 1925–26.

Prices

The wholesale prices of excise salt increased on the average from 4 annas 11 pies in 1925–26 to 5 annas in 1926–27. There was a decrease in the case of Government salt, the average price being 6 annas 1 pie as compared with 6 annas 3 pies in the previous year. The retail prices at the headquarter stations varied on the average from 1 anna 1·2 pies to 2 annas 3·1 pies a Madras measure of 120 tolas. The prices in 1925–26 were higher and ranged from 1 anna 1·9 pies to 2 annas 5·4 pies.

Issues

The quantity of salt imported by sea, mainly from Bombay, fell from 1,553,893 maunds to 1,389,509 maunds, while that imported by rail, from Bombay and Goa, rose from 333,078 maunds to 385,506 maunds. The issues of locally manufactured and imported salt for ordinary consumption in the areas usually supplied remained much the same, being 12,449,520 maunds as compared with 12,464,707 maunds in the previous year. The quantity issued for export by sea to Ceylon rose from 385,410 maunds to 448,114 maunds. There was a decrease in the issues of salt to the Travancore Durbar, the quantity being 414,286 maunds as against 501,214 maunds in the

previous year. The quantities of salt issued to the French Government and the Fisheries Department were 64,310 maunds and 141,104 maunds respectively, as against 63,510 maunds and 255,888 maunds in the previous year.

Finance

The total receipts on account of salt revenue were Rs. 143·12 lakhs. There was a fall in revenue compared with that realized in 1925–26, due chiefly to the decrease in sales during the year. The charges in 1926–27 were similar to those of the previous year except under the heads (1) "Purchase of salt—manufacturers' share," (2) "Conveying and storing salt," and (3) "Miscellaneous." The increased expenditure under the first two items was due to the necessity of securing a large stock of salt in the monopoly factories owing to the failure of manufacture in the two previous years. The decrease in expenditure under the third item, "Miscellaneous," marks a return to normal, being due to the fact that no large amounts by way of compensation to ex-licensees of closed factories, such as were disbursed during the previous year, had to be paid during the year under report.

INCOME-TAX (1926–27)

Administrative changes

246. The main administrative changes introduced during the year 1926–27 were the following :— A special salary circle for the assessment of all Government servants under the audit of the Accountant General and the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, was formed in Madras with effect from 1st April 1926. The Income-tax Officer, Fourth circle, Madras was empowered to assess all the employees of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway residing in and outside the Madras Presidency. The headquarters of the Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax, Southern Range, was transferred from Dindigul to Madura. The Northern Range was found to be too heavy and the charges of the Assistant Commissioners were redistributed with effect from 1st March 1927 ; the districts of Bellary,

REVENUE AND FINANCE

Anantapur and Cuddapah were transferred from the Northern Range to the Central Range, the district of Tanjore from the Central to the Western Range and the district of Trichinopoly from the Western Range to the Southern Range.

Trade conditions

The trade conditions of the year 1925–26, which determined the assessment of income-tax in the year 1926–27, were not uniform throughout the Presidency. In the Northern districts harvests were normal or slightly better than in the previous year. Money-lenders were able to collect their dues more easily and rice mills did well except in the district of Kistna which was affected by the cyclone of May 1925. The output of cotton was higher but prices declined throughout the year and dealers suffered losses. The trade in groundnut was very brisk owing to the excellent foreign demand and the high prices which prevailed. Dealers in salt and tobacco made more profits but manganese and turmeric fared badly. In Madras and the Central districts the indifferent monsoon adversely affected those traders whose business depends on the prosperity of the agricultural community. Traders in sugar, piece-goods, hides and skins suffered losses. Indigenous banking received a serious set-back owing to the failure of two prominent Nattukottai Chetti firms. In the Southern districts there was no appreciable improvement in the conditions of trade although, owing to the rise in the price of rubber in the Malay States, Nattukottai Chettis were able to realize the money that they had sunk in rubber estates and so paid income-tax proportionate to their heavier remittances to British India. Business in yarn declined and piece-goods showed no improvement. The western districts as a whole did not recover from the depression in trade. The only exception was the tea industry in the Nilgiri hills which did remarkably well. The district of South Kanara had not yet recovered from the floods of 1924. The spinning and weaving mills in the Presidency yielded less revenue than in the previous year.

Financial results

The number of assessees rose from 45,080 in 1925–26 to 49,024 in 1926–27. The increase was, as

in the last year, mainly due to the discovery of new assessees who had previously escaped assessment. The demand under income-tax was Rs. 127·34 lakhs in 1926-27 as against Rs. 123·74 lakhs in 1925-26. The demand under super-tax was Rs. 19·58 lakhs in 1926-27 as against Rs. 22·64 lakhs in the previous year. The net collections during the year were Rs. 113·56 lakhs under income-tax and Rs. 18·88 lakhs under super-tax. The arrears at the end of the year were Rs. 2·43 lakhs under income-tax and Rs. 0·58 lakh under super-tax as against Rs. 1·73 lakhs and Rs. 0·35 lakh, respectively in the previous year.

Refunds

The refunds under income-tax in 1926-27 were Rs. 14·57 lakhs as against Rs. 9·14 lakhs in 1925-26. The increase was chiefly due to the heavy refunds under section 49 on account of the reduction of the rates of income-tax in the United Kingdom. The total of such refunds amounted in 1926-27 to Rs. 9·45 lakhs as against Rs. 4·27 lakhs in the previous year. The refunds under super-tax were Rs. 0·45 lakh.

Expenditure

The expenditure in 1926-27 was Rs. 7,35,108 as against Rs. 7,83,491 in 1925-26. The share of the Local Government in the income-tax receipts in 1926-27 under Devolution Rule 15 has been provisionally fixed at Rs. 4·56 lakhs as against Rs. 4·22 lakhs in the previous year.

MUNICIPAL REVENUES

247. See supra Chapter III—Protection—Municipal Administration (Mufassal) and Municipal Administration (City of Madras).

OPIUM, EXCISE AND STAMPS

[*Administration Report of the Madras Excise Department for the year 1926-27; Administration Report on Stamps for the year 1926-27*]

248. During the year under report there was a slight increase in the consumption of country spirits (5·3 per cent) and of hemp drugs (4·6 per

cent) and an appreciable increase in the consumption of foreign beer (24·6 per cent). There was an increase in the number of toddy tree licences, but the yield of the trees was in general poor owing to drought. The consumption of opium decreased by 2 per cent. These variations in consumption as compared with the previous year were not due to any changes in the rates of duty, which remained unaltered during the year. There was a comparatively negligible rise in the total number of offences under the Abkāri Act, except in the case of offences relating to the illicit manufacture of toddy, in which the increase was noticeable. Two prohibition experiments were continued during the year, but they are still in the experimental stage and it cannot yet be said that they have met with conspicuous success. During the year the Government accepted the proposals of the Excise Advisory Committee for the constitution on a popular basis of licensing boards in municipalities with a population of over 50,000 and of advisory committees for revenue divisional areas including smaller municipalities.

Opium

249. The issue price of opium remained at Rs. 75 per seer throughout the year and the total consumption fell by 2 per cent to 34,886 seers. The decrease was marked in the East Gōdāvari district (734 seers) and was the result of a deliberate policy, 14 shops having been closed with a view to reduce the excessive consumption of the drug in that district. With the same object several shops were closed in the districts of Ganjām and Vizagapatam also, but in those two districts the experiment was unsuccessful and consumption increased. The total number of shops closed was 22; 582 were sold by auction as compared with 604 in the previous year. Shop rentals accounted for Rs. 10·25 lakhs out of a total revenue of Rs. 42·34 lakhs.

Offences

The number of convictions under the Opium Act rose from 170 to 197, with a corresponding increase in the value of the articles confiscated from Rs. 5,778 to Rs. 6,826. There was a marked fall of 50 per cent in the quantity of opium seized

in Burma from vessels arriving from the ports of this Presidency; this satisfactory result was undoubtedly due to the stringent measures adopted to reduce the number of shops in the northern districts and to restrict the issue of opium to shops which had shown suspiciously high sales. The most important individual case of the year was the capture by the Excise Intelligence staff of the chief of a gang of Northern India smugglers with 11½ seers of smuggled opium.

Excise Country spirits

250. There were no changes in the areas for the contract supply of arrack but there was a general reduction by one anna per gallon of 35° u.p. liquor in the rates of cost price allowed to distillers. There were no changes either in the issue strengths of liquor or in the limit of private possession of arrack without a licence. During the year the consumption of country spirits amounted to 1,447,670 proof gallons. Although this marks an increase of 5·3 per cent as compared with the previous year, it is the lowest consumption on record since the year 1907-08 with the exception of the previous year. The increase in consumption as compared with last year was due partly to the replacement of illicit by licit arrack and partly to the greater demand for arrack following from the scarcity of toddy in certain parts of the Presidency. The number of cases of illicit distillation and kindred offences was exactly the same as in the previous year (2,208). In particular districts however, e.g., Ganjām, Anantapur, Salem, Bellary, Kurnool and Cuddapah, there was an appreciable increase in the number of these offences. The experiment first introduced in 1924 of closing arrack shops in certain taluks of the Tanjore, Salem, Rāmnād and Tinnevelly districts, these taluks being toddy-drinking areas, was continued during the year. Although the experiment has not led to any appreciable increase in the consumption of toddy, there has been an increase in the consumption of foreign liquor, attended with smuggling, in all these taluks, while illicit distillation has also broken out in two of them. The experiment is

however being continued, with a reduction in the limit of private possession. The prohibition experiment on the Nilgiris, by which the sale of liquor of any kind to any member of the hill tribes is prohibited except on a certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner, was also continued during the year. This too has met with indifferent success, the figures showing that the consumption of foreign liquor, especially of beer, has substantially increased. The only result therefore of the experiment so far has been to compel the hillman to obtain liquor through a middleman at a higher cost. Measures to meet this situation engaged the attention of the Government.

Revenue

The number of shops licensed for the retail sale of country spirits was 5,784 as compared with 5,788 in the previous year. The total revenue derived from country spirits rose from Rs. 195·28 lakhs to Rs. 205·79 lakhs, the increase of Rs. 10·5 lakhs being made up of Rs. 1·24 lakhs in rentals and of Rs. 9·27 lakhs in duty.

Agency tracts

The system of liquor supply in the Agency tracts continued unchanged but the rate of duty per gallon of 60° u.p. was enhanced to Re. 1-4-0 and 10 annas from Re. 1-0-0 and 8 annas in the Pōlavaram and Bhadrāchalam divisions respectively. In the Gunupur taluk the central distillery system introduced in 1925 for the manufacture and distribution of *mahua* liquor worked satisfactorily, and the consumption amounted to 47,978 gallons. Under the outstill system in the Vizagapatam Agency 91 combined shops and stills were sold for Rs. 2,90,765.

Toddy

251. There was no change in the rates of tree-tax for the toddy lease 1926-27. During the first ten months of the lease 1,051,960 coconuts, 690,251 palmyras, 938,066 dates and 5,845 sagos were licensed for tapping. After reduction to terms of coconuts by the application of the formula 2 coconut palms = 3 palmyras = 3 dates = 1 sago, the number for these ten months becomes 2,149,195 as compared with 2,111,272 in the first ten months of the previous year.

The number of shops sold for the year 1926-27 was 10,355 as compared with 10,434 in the previous year. The total revenue derived during the official year was Rs. 2·31 crores (in the year 1925–26 it was Rs. 2·23 crores) composed of Rs. 1·26 crores under rentals, Rs. 1·05 crores under tree-tax and Rs. 35,488 from transport duty on toddy transported from Hyderabad. Revenue

The tree-tax system continued to be in force in the same areas of the Agency tracts as in the previous year. Seventy-eight sweet toddy licences were issued in the Pōlāvaram division, the total number of trees tapped being 3,120. No cases of malpractices, such as the drawing of fermented toddy under the guise of sweet juice, were reported during the year. Agency tracts

The number of cases of illicit manufacture of toddy again increased from 7,317 to 7,508. The illicit manufacture and sale of *sonti soru* in Madras City continued on an extensive scale. Offences

252. The rates of duty on locally made foreign liquor and on imported spirits remained unaltered during the year. The consumption of wines and spirits varied little, but the consumption of beer showed an appreciable increase of 25 per cent, due to the poor yield of toddy caused by drought in certain districts. The consumption of locally made liquor increased from 23,499 gallons to 26,518 gallons. The increase appears to be due to the reduction of duty which was effected in the year 1924–25 and which has enabled the locally made article to compete on more favourable terms with cheap brands of imported liquor. **Foreign liquor**

The pharmaceutical laboratory opened at Madras by Messrs. Spencer & Co. for the manufacture of spirituous medicinal preparations continued to work during the year. Imports of spirituous medicinal preparations from the Mysore Pharmaceuticals, Ltd., Bangalore, decreased slightly while those from Bengal increased. Spirituous medicinal preparations

The number of licences for the sale of foreign liquor on the premises was 29 as in the previous year ; 26 shops for the sale of beer for consumption on the premises were sold by auction and 169 "off" retail licences were issued. The total Revenue

revenue derived from foreign liquor was Rs. 11·66 lakhs as compared with Rs. 10·53 lakhs in the previous year.

Intoxicating drugs

253. There was no change in the rates of duty on ganja and bhang during the year. The consumption of licit ganja and bhang increased by 4·6 per cent. The increased consumption of ganja was due to an improvement in the quality supplied which has, as a result, removed the incentive to smuggling. Forty-three licences were issued for the cultivation of ganja at Santaravur in the Guntūr district and 64 licences at Santavasal in the North Arcot district. A special staff consisting of one chemical assistant and a laboratory attendant was sanctioned by Government for a period of five years for continuing the investigation into the causes of the deterioration of ganja and the means of remedy, in place of the Assistant Agricultural Chemist previously employed for the purpose. The total revenue derived from hemp drugs amounted to Rs. 14·56 lakhs as compared with Rs. 13·39 lakhs in the previous year. There was an appreciable fall in the number of cases of illicit cultivation of hemp drugs (57 against 88) and of smuggling (53 against 83). This also is reported to be due to the better quality of ganja supplied during the year.

Ganja and bhang

Cocaine

One hundred and ninety-nine licences for the possession and sale of cocaine and its preparations were issued during the year as compared with 243 in the previous year. The retail sales amounted to 1 lb. 15 oz. 139 gr. as against 2 lb. 5 oz. 185 gr. in the previous year. The decrease is reported to be due partly to an inadequate supply during a part of the year and partly to the use by medical practitioners of substitutes such as novocaine, alypin, etc.

Stamps

254. The receipts from the sale of judicial stamps during the year 1926–27 amounted to Rs. 1·50 crores and from the sale of non-judicial stamped papers to Rs 1·02 crores. There was an increase in receipts under both heads as compared with the receipts in the previous year. The increase is attributed to the greater number of civil

suits instituted during the year and of transactions for the sale and mortgage of immovable properties, to increased monetary dealings and commercial activity. Civil courts and Collectors continued to levy duty and penalty, under Act II of 1899, on unstamped and insufficiently stamped instruments ; the amount so realized was Rs. 2,57,596. The total receipts for the year were Rs. 2·52 crores, while the charges amounted to Rs. 5,98,305.

CHAPTER VI

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES

DETAILS OF CENSUS

255. *Vide* pages 209 to 219 of the Report on the administration of the Madras Presidency for the year 1921-22.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS (1926)

[*The sixty-third annual report of the Director of Public Health, Madras, for 1926; Report on the working of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act of 1886 during the year 1926-27; Statistical Abstract for British India—Vital Statistics*]

Population

256. The population of the Presidency according to the census of 1921 was 42,759,827, exclusive of Europeans and Anglo-Indians, who numbered 34,328. On the basis of the increases in the past between one census and another, the population in 1926 is estimated at 43,307,590, while according to the natural increase calculated by adding to the census population of 1921 the annual excess births over deaths the population is 45,102,311.

Registration of vital statistics

257. The difference of nearly two millions between the two estimates given above is ascribed partly to the absence of any system of registration of vital statistics in the major portion of the Agency tracts and partly to defective registration in the rest of the Presidency. The extent of this defective registration is clearly illustrated by the detection in the various districts during the year under report of nearly 100,000 unregistered births. That a closer scrutiny over registration is

now being exercised is clear from the steady increase during the last five years in the number of unregistered births detected by the health staff; in 1922 the number was 32,000 and in 1925, 72,000. Much, however, remains to be done to ensure accuracy, and it is hoped that the arrangement sanctioned by the Government in 1925, designed to promote a closer association between the collector's staff and the district health staff will, though still on trial, result in further improvement.

Births

258. The total number of births registered during the year was 1,480,293 as compared with 1,382,477 in 1925, an increase of 97,816. Calculated on the census population of 1921, these figures mean that the birth-rate per mille for 1926 was 36·1 and for 1925, 33·7. Although the estimated correct average rate for the Presidency of 42·5 per mille is still far from being attained, the increase over the average rate of 28·8 for the quinquennium 1919—23 marks a distinct improvement and illustrates both the degree of error which existed prior to the reorganization of the Public Health Department and the extent to which that error has now been corrected.

In rural towns the registered birth-rate was 35·4 per mille. Great improvement seems to have been made in registration in these towns during recent years; in 1921 the birth-rate was 22·6 and only 43 out of 206 towns registered a birth-rate of over 30, whereas in the year under report 153 out of 214 towns were placed in that category.

In municipalities, where registration is compulsory, the average recorded birth-rate was 38·0 per mille; the average for the quinquennium was 35·6.

Deaths

259. The birth-rate exceeded the death-rate in all districts except Madras City. The total number of deaths registered was 1,048,529, representing a death-rate of 25·6 per mille as compared with 24·4 for 1925 and the quinquennial average of 22·5. The death-rate of infants according to the number of registered deaths was 189·5 per mille. The registered rate has increased year by year since 1921, but it is suspected that the

figures still under-estimate actual conditions. Fifty per cent of the registered deaths occurred in the first month of life.

The average death-rate for the 214 rural towns was 24·6 per mille. The death-rate varies with different towns, but, as with births, there seems to have been some improvement in registration in recent years.

The average death-rate in the 81 municipalities was 32·6 per mille, the average for the quinquennium being 31 per mille. The highest death-rate was recorded in Madras (45·3) where the high mortality was, as usual, mostly due to intestinal and respiratory diseases. The rate of registered infantile mortality in municipalities was 211·3 per mille.

Chief diseases

260. The number of registered deaths from cholera (24,407) was markedly less than in the previous year (44,815). These figures represent death-rates of 0·6 and 1·1 per mille respectively, as compared with the quinquennial average of 0·7. Eighty per cent of these deaths occurred in six districts alone—Tanjore, Tinnevelly, South Arcot, Trichinopoly, Coimbatore and Salem—and of these Tanjore, with 8,793 deaths, suffered by far the most. The districts of Madura, North Arcot, Rāmnād, Chingleput and Malabar also suffered appreciably. In the remaining fourteen districts in the Presidency, only 1,079 deaths were recorded and one of these, Anantapur, enjoyed complete immunity. As in 1925, therefore, cholera was almost wholly confined to the southern parts of the Presidency. Of the 81 municipalities, 30 remained entirely free and 20 others had less than ten cases each.

Cholera

During the year the epidemiological studies on cholera were continued with the assistance of a grant from the Indian Research Fund Association and a method was discovered by which it is possible to forecast cholera epidemics two or three months before their actual occurrence. Experiments on anti-cholera vaccines were also in progress during the year.

Smallpox

The mortality from smallpox fell from 20,478 to 10,957. The death-rate was 0·3 per mille of the

population as compared with 0·5 in 1925 and 0·4, the quinquennial average. More than half the number of total deaths occurred in the seven districts of South Arcot, Madura, Tanjore, West Gōdāvari, Trichinopoly, Bellary and North Arcot. Deaths from smallpox were reported in only 46 municipalities out of 81 and 57 per cent of these deaths occurred in the Madura municipality alone. Of the total number of deaths in the Presidency, 78 per cent occurred among children under ten years of age and nearly 45 per cent among children under one year. These figures indicate that although the mortality from smallpox has steadily decreased during the last five years (the figure for the year under report being only about 45 per cent of that for 1922) and the disease is being gradually brought under effective control, the child population is still inadequately protected. The question of extending the area of compulsory vaccination and of making it effective in areas in which it has already been introduced, engaged attention.

Plague

The number of deaths from plague increased slightly, from 2,014 in 1925 to 2,143 in 1926. These figures represent a death-rate of 0·1 per mille as compared with the quinquennial average of 0·2. The disease was prevalent in 14 districts and 12 municipalities. Over 75 per cent of the total number of deaths occurred in the Bellary, Coimbatore and Salem districts, while nearly 70 per cent of the number of registered deaths in municipal areas occurred in the Hospet municipality.

The epidemic that broke out in the Ramnad district towards the close of 1925 was effectively suppressed by the month of May in the year under report as a result of a campaign of inoculation and rat-catching operations. The success of the preventive measures taken in this district clearly demonstrates their value.

Malaria

During the year malaria was prevalent in practically every district of the Presidency ; but the incidence of mortality is difficult to ascertain with accuracy, owing to defective registration. Further measures to combat the ravages of this disease were undertaken during the year. A special

officer was appointed to investigate the conditions in selected and badly affected localities, and proposals for the free distribution of quinine in specially malarial tracts were under consideration.

Respiratory diseases

The total number of deaths registered under respiratory diseases was 85,602 or 2·1 per mille as compared with 74,591 or 1·8 per mille in 1925. These figures are, however, of doubtful accuracy, as many diseases not necessarily having anything to do with the respiratory system are included under the heading.

Hookworm

The investigations of the special staff into the intensity of hookworm infection were continued during the year. The disease was found to be more prevalent in Malabar than in any other district yet investigated. It was also established that heavy rainfall combined with soil pollution are the most potent factors in spreading the infection. The work of the year also included the treatment of cases, lectures on preventive measures and the initiation of a practical scheme of rural sanitation for application by local bodies. The addition of a first-class health officer to the special staff was also sanctioned by the Government during the year.

Child-births

261. Seven thousand one hundred and forty-two deaths were registered as due to causes associated with child-birth. This figure represents a rate of 4·8 per thousand births and is a marked increase over the rate of 2·7 for 1925 and 1·7 for 1921. The increase appears to be due to better registration and, indeed, the extent of mortality from this cause is still considered to be much under estimated.

Europeans and European British subjects

262. Under the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1886, which provides for the registration of European and European British subjects and also of other classes such as Jews and Indian Christians, 79 births and 45 deaths were registered. These figures include 18 births and 8 deaths in Native States. One hundred and forty-eight births and 84 deaths of Europeans and European British subjects were registered under the Madras City Municipal Act, the District Municipalities Act, and the Cantonment Code.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION (1926)

[*Report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, for the year 1926; Statistical Abstract for British India—Emigration*]

General

263. The emigration of unskilled labour from this Presidency is confined by the Indian Emigration Act to Malaya and Ceylon.

The ports of emigration to Malaya are Madras and Negapatam. Emigration during the year under report was the heaviest on record in recent years and was double that of last year; the total number of emigrants was 159,061. The heavy increase was due partly to the active demand for labour in Malaya and partly to the bad season in this Presidency. The districts of North Arcot, Salem and Trichinopoly contributed the largest number of emigrants.

Emigrants for Ceylon leave by the port of Dhanushkodi. The total number of emigrants fell from 76,410 in 1925 to 56,722 in 1926. The gradual decline of emigration to Ceylon in recent years appears to bear out the opinion of the Agent to the Government of India in Ceylon that the employment of Indian labour on the tea and rubber estates in the island is approaching saturation point. As usual, emigration was chiefly from the districts in the extreme south and was at its highest during the hot weather, when the demand for agricultural labour is slack.

Health

The health of the emigrants was on the whole good, except for an outbreak of cholera at Negapatam.

Returning emigrants

One thousand one hundred and eighty emigrants were assisted to return from Malaya during the year and 2,352 from Ceylon. The chief reason given for returning from Malaya was sickness and from Ceylon the unsuitability of the climate. In addition, 1,454 persons returned from Natal and 487 from Fiji; of the former, 279 brought back savings amounting to Rs. 2 lakhs and of the latter 244 had saved Rs. 1·76 lakhs.

MEDICAL RELIEF (1926)

[*Annual Report on the working of the Civil Hospitals and Dispensaries in the Madras Presidency for the year 1926; Report on the working of Mental Hospitals for the year 1926; Annual reports of the Medical College, Madras, and the Medical College, Vizagapatam, for the year 1926-27; Annual report on the working of Medical Schools for the year 1926-27; Annual Report of the Director of the Pasteur Institute, Coonoor, for the year ending 28th February 1927; Report of the King Institute of Preventive Medicine, Guindy, for 1926-27; Statistical Abstract for British India—Vital Statistics—Hospitals*]

General

264. The scheme for the maintenance of rural dispensaries having proved popular and a number of local boards having expressed their readiness to open additional dispensaries, the Government sanctioned during the year an increase in the number of dispensaries and undertook to grant subsidies for a maximum of three rural dispensaries in each taluk board area. As a result, 59 additional rural dispensaries were opened during the year.

The general reorganization of the system of treatment of mental diseases was under consideration during the year. Fuller details are given below in the paragraph on mental hospitals.

Medical institutions

265. At the end of the year 1926 there were 1,006 medical institutions of all classes, of which 957 were general institutions and 49 exclusively for the treatment of women and children. Sixty-nine institutions were opened during the year and 22 were closed. The following table shows the different classes of institutions at work at the close of the year as compared with the previous year:—

		1925.	1926.
I.	State-public institutions	59	63
II.	State-private institutions (for special departments of Government, e.g., the Police, and special sections of the public)	26	22
III.	Local Fund institutions	729	773
IV.	Private institutions aided by the State ...	29	29
V.	Private institutions not aided by the State.	64	67
VI.	Railway medical institutions	52	52
	Total ...	959	1,006

Of the 63 State-public institutions, six were maintained exclusively for women and children.

There was a general increase in the volume of medical relief afforded during the year. In the institutions mentioned in classes I, III and IV above, the total number of beds maintained was 9,696 as compared with 9,328 in the previous year. The total number of indoor patients actually treated was 159,043 as compared with 149,988 in 1925. Of these patients, 97,821 were cured, 28,832 were relieved, 19,469 were discharged for other reasons and 8,052 died. The principal diseases were malaria and diseases of the generative, digestive and respiratory systems. Medical relief

The total number of out-patients treated was 10,059,359 as compared with 9,283,281 in the year 1925. Among out-patients the most prevalent diseases were those affecting the digestive and respiratory systems, dysentery, malaria and syphilis.

The total number of operations performed was 453,346 (as compared with 412,053 in the previous year) of which 29,419 were major operations.

In the course of the campaign against hookworm, 76,587 persons were treated during the year and considerable progress was made in the survey of the intensity of infection throughout the Presidency.

The general increase in the volume of medical work was reflected in the receipts and expenditure of the year. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 58·93 lakhs (as compared with Rs. 57·65 lakhs in 1925). Of this amount, the Government contributed Rs. 34·01 lakhs and municipal and local bodies Rs. 19·80 lakhs. The total expenditure was Rs. 58·81 lakhs as against Rs. 57·50 lakhs in 1925. Finance

266. There was an increase during the year both in the number of patients under treatment and in the daily average strength of the three mental hospitals at Madras, Waltair and Calicut (1,385 and 1,033, respectively, as compared with 1,303 and 981 in 1925). The patients included 188 insane criminals. The principal types of insanity, in the order of number of cases treated, were Mental hospitals

mania, dementia, melancholia, insanity due to *cannabis indica*, circular or alternating insanity, delusional insanity, idiocy and imbecility. The chief causes of insanity were toxic and other infective diseases, mental instability or stress, privation and starvation, and the effects of critical periods such as puberty and adolescence, climacteric and senility. There was a fall in the percentage of cures to daily average strength (from 16·82 per cent in 1925 to 14·43 per cent in 1926) due to the facts that the majority of patients admitted during the year were in a low state of health at the time of admission and that in some cases the relatives of the patients insisted upon their removal before they had been completely cured. All the hospitals were visited by non-officials as well as by officials during the year.

Finance

There was an increase in the total receipts, from Rs. 3·88 lakhs in 1925 to Rs. 4·02 lakhs in 1926, the total increase occurring in various items of receipt including the fees of paying patients. The total expenditure also rose, from Rs. 3·80 lakhs to Rs. 3·92 lakhs, the most important item of increase being the appointment of a matron specially trained in England in the treatment of mental diseases.

Development

The general question of the reorganization of the system of treatment of mental diseases was under consideration during the year. The principal object is the conversion of the three mental hospitals from mere asylums into up-to-date hospitals dispensing scientific treatment. The lines of development under contemplation include building improvements to the hospitals, the reorganization of the nursing staff, the establishment of mental clinics and the specialized training of medical officers. Practical steps already taken are the appointment of the English-trained matron referred to above, one of whose duties will be the systematic training of the nursing staff, and the approval of an estimate of over Rs. 2 lakhs for improvements in the accommodation for female patients in the Madras Mental Hospital. Improvements in the accommodation of the other two hospitals were under consideration.

267. The outstanding features of the year were the appointment to the Madras Medical College of a professor of operative surgery, a full-time professor of hygiene and a part-time professor of bacteriology in place of a part-time professor for both subjects, and of a lady tutor to assist the studies of the women students. The latter appointment has already had a marked effect on the training of women students.

Medical education

Medical College, Madras

There were 640 students on the rolls of the college as compared with 622 in 1925–26; the number of women students increased from 63 to 71. Six hundred and sixty-nine students appeared for the University examinations (M.B., B.S. and L.M.S.) and 310 passed : the percentage of passes (46) was the same as in the previous year.

Two new professors (in ophthalmology and midwifery) and two assistant professors (in medicine and surgery) were added to the staff during the year : in addition, three demonstrators were replaced by three assistant professors. The strength of the College rose from 78 in the year 1925–26 to 156 in the year under report, but the number of candidates seeking admission still remains low and almost every applicant possessing the minimum qualification prescribed for admission was admitted, applicants thus being accepted rather than selected. It is also to be observed that 32 of the 106 students were not natives of Telugu districts, which area the College is designed to serve, while on the other hand a number of Telugu applicants were admitted to the Madras Medical College.

Medical College, Vizagapatam

There was, as anticipated, a marked improvement in the results of the examinations, due to the appointment of a better qualified staff for chemistry and physiology. Of the 158 students who appeared for the University examinations (M.B., B.S. and L.M.S.) 93 or 59 per cent passed, whereas the percentage of passes in the previous year was only 33.

There are in the Presidency five Government medical schools for men, at Madras, Tanjore, Vizagapatam, Coimbatore and Madura, and one Government medical school for women, at Madras.

Medical schools

An interesting feature of the year was the passing out from the school for women, opened in 1923, of the first batch of qualified women medical practitioners.

There was a still further fall in the total strength of the schools and the total number of admissions during the year. The total strength has persistently decreased from 1,336 in 1922-23 to 958 in the year under report, while only 239 candidates sought admission and only 116 were admitted, although there were vacancies for 250. The continued decrease in the number of students is attributed to the abolition of the system of stipends, the less favourable prospect of employment for qualified students owing to the reduction in the cadre of sub-assistant surgeons during the last few years, and the recent restriction of admission to those who have taken up science subjects in the School Final Examination. In these circumstances the question of retaining all the existing schools is being examined.

Viewing the results of the examination in the various schools as a whole, there was an appreciable improvement in the first and third year classes (the percentage of passes rising from 56 and 61, respectively, to 68 and 77) counterbalanced, however, by a fall in the percentage of passes in the second and final years from 59 and 43, respectively, to 56 and 38. The decline in the latter percentage, already low, is attributed largely to the practice of allowing the provisional promotion to the higher class of students who have failed in the third year examination. The question of removing this practice has, therefore, engaged attention.

The total expenditure in all the schools was Rs. 3·32 lakhs and the total receipts Rs. 59,863.

Pasteur Institute

268. The number of patients treated in the Pasteur Institute during the year was 415, a decrease of 157 as compared with the number treated during the previous year. Of the total of 415 patients, 217 came from the Coimbatore district. Advice without treatment was given to 124 persons. The total number of persons treated at local centres (other than Coonoor) was 4,373 as

compared with 4,072 in the previous year. Of the total of 4,788 persons treated during the year, nine died less than 15 days and 20 more than 15 days after the completion of the treatment; the percentage of deaths to patients treated was 0·61.

The total number of deaths from rabies registered in the Presidency during the year was 488. The number of deaths after anti-rabic treatment (persons from the Presidency only) was 18. Statistics collected at the Pasteur Institute over a number of years show that, of persons bitten by rabid animals, on an average one out of 36 persons treated with anti-rabic vaccine and one out of 16 not treated died of rabies. On this data it is calculated that less than one out of every six persons bitten by rabid animals has received anti-rabic treatment. It is indeed disappointing as well as curious that, in spite of the decentralization of treatment implied by the issue of vaccine to local centres throughout the Presidency, which was begun in 1922, the number of persons treated during the last five years has remained almost stationary. This situation plainly demands the organized spread of information of the value and accessibility of anti-rabic treatment. A practical step in the right direction has been taken during the year under report by the allotment of funds for propaganda work of this nature. An additional practical step was the decision to supply vaccine to a large number of mission hospitals throughout the Presidency.

The King Institute of Preventive Medicine

269. During the year the King Institute of Preventive Medicine, which is situated at Guindy, continued to manufacture and distribute vaccine lymph, to distribute bacterial vaccines and sera, to examine specimens and to test samples of food and water.

The particulars of vaccine lymph manufactured and the results are mentioned in the section on vaccination.

Ninety-one thousand three hundred and thirteen doses of bacterial vaccines were issued during the year as compared with 85,569 doses in the previous year. The increase was mainly due to a larger supply of cholera and typhoid prophylactic

vaccines. There was also an increase in the issue of autogenous vaccines.

There was a considerable increase in the total number of specimens examined (29,377 as compared with 15,180 in the previous year), particularly in the Wasserman tests for syphilis, the examinations of faeces for dysentery and typhoid, and the examination of specimens by the investigation units. The large increase (5,200) in the number of Wasserman tests was in part due to the investigation into the prevalence of venereal disease carried out for the information of the British Social Hygiene Council.

In addition to the usual examination of samples of water obtained from the protected water-supplies in municipalities, many special investigations were made. A general survey of the water-supplies in the Presidency is being undertaken, for a lack of first-hand knowledge of local conditions has often made it difficult in the past to suggest the reason for an unsatisfactory supply or to recommend suitable remedial measures. Various food samples were also examined during the year. With the contemplated extension of the Madras Prevention of Adulteration Act to certain selected municipalities, there will be a regular supply of food samples for analysis in accordance with the provisions of that Act.

The research work of the year included malarial surveys and certain other specialized investigations.

Health propaganda

270. The propaganda work carried on since the introduction of the district health scheme in 1923 is steadily increasing in volume. During the year, 70,300 lectures were delivered at 44,200 centres to audiences numbering approximately 38,000,000. Of these lectures, 6,400 were illustrated by means of lantern slides ; it is hoped that local bodies will facilitate the development of this more attractive method of lecture.

National Health and Baby Week

271. Propaganda work was, as usual, intensified during the National Health and Baby Week ; the week's campaign was carried on with the aid of

lectures, leaflets, posters, lantern demonstrations, health dramas and health exhibitions.

SANITATION (1926)

[*The thirty-seventh annual report of the Sanitary Engineer to Government and the sixty-third annual report of the Director of Public Health for the year 1926*]

Municipalities Water-supply and drainage schemes

272. During the year the Chingleput water-supply scheme was completed and brought into operation ; 31 out of 81 municipalities are now provided with a protected water-supply. The construction of a service reservoir for the Negapatam water-works was also completed. The execution of the Bellary and Coimbatore water-supply schemes and of the Madura and Vellore drainage schemes, in charge of the Public Works Department, and improvements to the existing water-supply schemes in nine other municipalities, were in progress. Detailed plans and estimates were prepared for the improvement of the Ellore water-works, the extension of the Bellary water-supply system and for a water-supply scheme in Palacole. Plans and estimates were under preparation for the Proddatur, Tiruppur and Rajahmundry water-supply schemes and the Erode, Bezwada and Tirupati drainage schemes. In addition, sixteen schemes were under investigation.

During the year, the Government had under examination the question of ensuring the execution of water-supply and drainage schemes in order of urgency and importance from the point of view of public health, such schemes having been considered in the past as and when they were suggested by the local bodies concerned, without particular reference to that aspect.

Conservancy

The conservancy plant used in most municipalities continued to be defective. No public latrines were constructed during the year : the total number of all kinds in use was 1,920. Private latrines numbered 171,949, of which 81·8 per cent were conserved by municipal agency.

Finance

According to the information furnished by municipalities, the total allotment for sanitation amounted to 32·98 per cent of their total income. The actual expenditure on conservancy was Rs. 3·44 lakhs and on improvements to water-supply Rs. 5·58 lakhs.

Rural areas

273. In rural areas, one water-supply scheme was under execution and several water-supply and drainage schemes were under investigation. Of the 494 unions in the Presidency, conservancy arrangements existed in 482; but of villages not included in unions only 354—a very small percentage—enjoyed similar facilities.

Fairs and festivals

Special sanitary arrangements were as usual made at important fairs and festivals on the advice and under the supervision of the Public Health Department in regard to accommodation, water-supply, conservancy, food control and other factors which bear on the comfort and safety of large gatherings of people. Special precautions were also taken against the epidemic diseases and no untoward outbreak occurred during the year under report.

VACCINATION (1926-27)

[*Annual report on Vaccination in the Madras Presidency for the year 1926-27; Statistical Abstract for British India—Vital Statistics—Vaccination*]

General

274. The administration of vaccination in rural areas continued to remain vested in taluk and union boards. With a view, however, to ensure a more centralized and efficient administration, the question of its transfer to the district boards will be considered by the Government when the amendment of the Local Boards Act is undertaken.

Glycerine lymph was used throughout the Presidency during the year under report with uniformly satisfactory results. The lymph is manufactured at the King Institute, Guindy, and the total number of vaccine doses issued was 2,323,521 as compared with 2,216,028 in the previous year. Both the manufacture of vaccine

lymph and routine vaccination work were, as usual, suspended during the four hottest months of the year. In the off-season the vaccinators are employed in checking vital statistics and vaccination records with a view to detecting unregistered births and unprotected children. The necessity for this work is clearly illustrated by the detection during the year under report of more than 10,000 cases of unprotected children in each of the five districts of North Arcot, Coimbatore, South Arcot, Malabar and Nellore. In addition to defective registration, other factors in which improvement appears to be necessary are the adoption by local bodies of adequate rates of pay in order to attract the full complement of trained vaccinators, closer co-operation between the presidents of local boards and district health officers in the administration of vaccination and the control of vaccinators, the employment of a health officer in all municipalities and the adoption of compulsory vaccination by all district boards. This is not to say, however, that there has been no improvement in vaccination work in recent years; on the contrary, since the introduction of the district health scheme there has been a progressive decline in the mortality from smallpox. In 1922–23 the total number of deaths was 26,526, while in the year under report it was only 9,816. Nevertheless, there were deaths from smallpox in each district during the year and in 47 out of the 81 municipalities. Investigation goes to show that the majority of deaths occurred either among unvaccinated persons or among those who have not been revaccinated since infancy. There is, therefore, room for a still further reduction in the incidence of this disease and there can be little doubt that the prosecution by all local bodies of a vigorous and intensive vaccination campaign, together with the improvements indicated above, would achieve this result.

Operations

275. The total number of vaccination operations performed during the year was 1,948,062 as compared with 1,965,026 in the previous year. The most prominent increases were in the districts of South Arcot and Ganjām and in

the Agency tracts, in each of which there was an increase of over 5,000 in the number of operations. In municipalities generally there was also an increase of 19,411. The percentage of successful operations in primary and secondary vaccinations was 94·9 as compared with 94·7 in the previous year. This slight increase in the already high percentage of success clearly demonstrates the efficacy of the lymph issued by the King Institute. The percentage of success in revaccination was 33·4. The number of children under one year of age who were successfully vaccinated rose from 584,137 in the previous year to 639,827 in the year under report.

The total expenditure incurred on all vaccination establishments—Government, Local Fund, Municipal and cantonment—was Rs. 5·56 lakhs. The average cost of each successful case was 6 annas 2 pies as compared with 6 annas in the previous year. The slight increase in the average cost of each case was due chiefly to the employment of 32 additional health inspectors.

CHAPTER VII

INSTRUCTION

GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

276. *Vide* pages 228 to 244 of the Report on the Administration of the Madras Presidency for the year 1921-22.

EDUCATION (1926-27)

[*Report of the Director of Public Instruction for the year 1926-27 ; Statistical Abstract for British India—Education*]

General

277. The outstanding feature of the year was the large increase in the number of schools and scholars. As the result of the intensive survey of elementary education and the policy of expansion adopted by the Government, a large number of school-less centres with a population of 500 and above have been provided with schools. Full advantage has not yet been taken of the provisions of the Madras Education Act of 1920 in regard to the levy of an education cess and the introduction of compulsory education, but considerable progress has been made. The rapid development of education, particularly of elementary education, has necessitated the strengthening of the inspecting agency and during the year under report a new grade of Junior Deputy Inspector of Schools was established.

The report of the committee of officials and non-officials formed to consider the general question of the reorganization of secondary education remained under the consideration of the Government at the close of the year.

Statistics

278. The number of public institutions rose by 2,965 to 50,941 and their total strength by 174,494

to 2,440,874, the increase being 6 per cent and 7·7 per cent respectively. There was also a small increase in the number and strength of private institutions. Taking public and private institutions together, the number of institutions rose by 3,056 to 53,838 and their strength by 186,636 to 2,523,188. The percentage of those under instruction to the whole population was 6·0 as compared with 5·5 in the previous year.

University and collegiate education

279. The Andhra University Act, which received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General in January 1926, came into force with effect from 26th April 1926. The main features of the Act are the establishment of the headquarters of the University at Bezwada, the concentration of the first-grade and honours colleges at the three centres of Vizagapatam, Rajahmundry and Anantapur, the recognition of the special grade colleges providing instruction in Oriental languages or in other special subjects, and the adoption of the vernaculars as the medium of instruction and examination.

The third and last part of Volume I of the Tamil Lexicon was published in June 1926. Parts (1) and (11) of Volume II, consisting of 160 pages each, were also published during the period under report.

The system of training in the University Training Corps continued along lines similar to those of previous years. In addition to its military value, the corps has had a beneficial effect on the tone and discipline of the University generally.

The number of arts colleges for men and women remained the same but the number of first-grade colleges for men increased by 3, owing to the raising to that grade of the United Lutheran Church Mission College, Guntūr, the Pithapur College, Cocanada, and the Theosophical College, Madanapalle. The total number of students in the arts colleges for men rose from 10,836 to 11,842, of whom 552 were reading for honours courses and 79 for post-graduate courses. The number of second-grade colleges for men was reduced from 18 to 15 by the promotion to the first grade of the 3 institutions mentioned above.

Secondary education

280. The number of public secondary schools for Indian boys rose from 512 to 528 and their strength from 157,560 to 162,955. The number of girls reading in these schools was 2,765. The number of candidates who sat for the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate Public Examination rose by 580 to 15,587. There were 42 candidates for agriculture and 15 for practical telegraphy. The report of the special officer appointed to investigate certain questions connected with secondary education remained under the consideration of the Government at the close of the year.

The total expenditure on secondary schools rose from Rs. 68·71 lakhs to Rs. 71·38 lakhs, of which public funds contributed 30 per cent and fees 55 per cent. The average cost of educating each pupil was Rs. 43-11-0 and the average fee paid by each pupil Rs. 23-15-9.

Elementary education

281. The number of public elementary schools for Indian boys increased by 2,747 to 46,378 and their strength by 150,368 to 1,985,617. The percentage of male pupils to the total male population rose from 7·6 to 8·2. The total number of teachers employed in these schools increased by 5,394 to 83,280 and the number of trained teachers by 3,196 to 39,913. The percentage of trained teachers to the total number of teachers employed rose from 47 to 48. The number of school buildings constructed during the year for the accommodation of elementary schools was 820, of which 180 were for schools under public management. The total expenditure on these schools rose from Rs. 125·55 lakhs to Rs. 142·30 lakhs, of which public funds contributed 78 per cent and fees 5 per cent. The average cost per pupil was Rs. 10-2-7.

Compulsory elementary education for boys and girls (excluding Muhammadan girls) was introduced in seven divisions of the Corporation of Madras. At the end of the year compulsory education had been introduced in 21 municipalities and in selected areas of 3 taluk boards. One hundred and three taluk boards and 28 municipalities continued to levy an education cess ; in general, however, local boards appear to be more

willing to levy taxation for educational purposes than to consider the introduction of compulsory education.

Special education

282. There were 83 training schools for masters —59 under Government management and 24 under private management. The number of students under training in these schools was 8,380 (1,151 of the secondary grade, 3,516 of the higher elementary grade and 3,713 of the lower elementary grade). There was a large increase in the number of manual training classes attached to the training schools ; 54 training schools are now holding special practical classes and over 8,000 students and pupils are attending them.

Female education

283. The number of schools intended solely for Indian girls rose by 144 to 3,567 and their strength by 15,284 to 246,864. The number of arts colleges remained the same, but there was an increase of 26 in their strength. In addition, 72 women students were studying in colleges intended for men, while 55 were reading in the Medical College and 2 in the Law College. There was also an increase in the strength of the secondary schools for girls, from 12,290 to 13,189, although the number of schools remained the same. Including girls reading in secondary schools for boys, 15,601 girls were receiving secondary education during the year. The number of elementary schools for girls rose by 160 to 3,388 and their strength by 14,350 to 228,348. The number of Government training schools for women teachers remained the same but the number under private management rose by 3 to 19. The secondary section of St. Christopher's Training College, which had been temporarily closed, was reopened, and two new training schools, the Canadian Baptist Mission Training School, Cocanada, and the Gnanodhaya School, St. Thomas' Mount, were opened during the year. The total number of students in these schools was 1,797 (279 of the secondary grade, 1,077 of the higher elementary grade and 441 of the lower elementary grade).

European education

284. The total number of European institutions fell from 89 to 87 but their strength increased

from 10,275 to 10,390. Of the 735 teachers employed in these schools, 590 were trained and certificated teachers. For the European High School examination, 165 candidates were examined and 105 passed; for the Middle School examination 281 were examined and 163 passed. The total expenditure on European education decreased from Rs. 25·02 lakhs to Rs. 24·27 lakhs, of which public funds contributed 36 per cent and fees 26 per cent.

Education of Muhammadans

285. The total number of public institutions for Muhammadans increased by 279 to 3,265 and their strength by 14,306 to 187,463. In arts colleges, there were 351 Muhammadan students as compared with 297 in 1925–26, while the number of Muhammadan pupils in secondary schools for Indians rose by 618 to 9,938. The number of public institutions for Mappillas increased by 172 to 1,239. The total expenditure on Muhammadan and Mappilla schools was Rs. 19·22 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 17·60 lakhs in the previous year.

Education of Ādi-Dravidas, Adi-Andhras and other backward classes

286. The number of public institutions for Ādi-Drāvidas and Ādi-Āndhras rose from 9,413 to 10,035 and their strength from 262,716 to 286,556. The total number of Ādi-Drāvida and Ādi-Āndhra pupils reading in public schools rose by 18,781 to 228,511.

The number of elementary schools intended for aboriginal and hill tribes in the Agency tracts rose by 15 to 301 and their strength by 302 to 8,517. The total number of pupils belonging to the aboriginal tribes under instruction in all classes of institutions in the Presidency rose by 2,344 to 20,100 (18,590 boys and 1,510 girls). There were 20 schools exclusively for the Chenchus in the Kurnool district and 68 for the hill tribes in the Nilgiris.

Deaf and dumb schools

The school at Madura for deaf and dumb children was closed during the year and two similar schools were opened at Madras. One, with a strength of 15, is under Missionary management, and the other, with 11 deaf mutes and 9 blind pupils, is managed by the Corporation of Madras. The other schools in the Presidency for defective children continued to work during the year.

Finance

287. The total expenditure on education rose from Rs. 416·20 lakhs to Rs. 452·72 lakhs; public funds bore 59 per cent of the expenditure and private funds 41 per cent, as compared with 57 and 43 per cent, respectively, in the previous year. Subsidies to local bodies from Provincial funds, including the amounts placed at the disposal of the district educational councils for elementary education, increased from Rs. 99·89 lakhs to Rs. 108·74 lakhs. Grants from public funds in aid of institutions under private management rose from Rs. 23·05 lakhs to Rs. 30·72 lakhs.

GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS

[*Commissioner's report for the year 1926-27*]

General

288. Thirteen examinations were held as in the previous year. The total number of candidates registered for the 13 examinations, held at 640 centres, was 36,484 and 34,822 were actually examined. Six of the examinations were held at centres outside the Presidency. Particulars of each examination are given below.

There was an increase of approximately 2,000 in the number of candidates examined as compared with the previous year; the increase was most marked in the Training School-Leaving Certificate and Secondary School-Leaving Certificate public examinations. The apparent decrease in the number of candidates registered for the latter examination was due to the replacement of the usual tentative and final lists of candidates by a single list.

Number.	Name of examination.	Number of candidates registered.	Number of candidates examined.	Number of centres.	Number passed.
1	Secondary School-Leaving Certificate Public Examination	15,701	15,587	336	*15,471
2	Special Examination under the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate Board for the benefit of teachers who have failed in the Matriculation or the Upper Secondary Examination and are desirous of being admitted for Secondary Grade Training ...	3	3	3	...

* This is the number of candidates who completed their certificates.

Number.	Name of examination.	Number of candidates registered.	Number of candidates examined.	Number of centres.	Number passed.
3	Women's Secondary Grade Final Examination	42	40	18	...
4	Training School-Leaving Certificate Examination	9,491	8,987	104	5,630
5	Deputy Inspectors' Test Examination	*168	*133	17	93
6	Government Technical Examinations	*8,180	*7,609	49	3,438
7	Public Examination at the end of the Advanced Course of Studies in Sanskrit Schools	127	123	16	...
8	Special Test-Examinations, June.	*973	*760	26	384
...	Do. December.	*1,174	*964	27	468
9	Technical Teachers' Certificate Examination	*90	*89	16	64
10	European School Examinations ...	452	*446	21	269
11	Examination for Teachers' Certificates in Physical Training (for men)	27	25	4	24
12	Examination for Teachers' Certificates in Physical Training (for women)	28	28	2	20
13	Pandits' Training Certificates Examination	28	28	1	25
	Total ...	36,484	34,822	640	...

Miscellaneous

The candidates for the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate examination included 96 pupils belonging to the depressed classes who were admitted without payment of fees.

Of the 40 candidates who actually appeared for the Women's Secondary Grade final examination, 28 were Indian Christians.

The second of the examinations in the statement given above has been ordered by the Government during the year to be abolished with effect from the year 1929.

The addition to the technical examinations of a group certificate in needlework and dress-making was ordered by the Government during the year.

* Number of subject-candidates.

LAWRENCE MEMORIAL SCHOOL (1926-27)

Pupils

289. The school continued to make steady progress during the year under report. The total number of pupils on the rolls on 31st March 1927 was 512 (312 boys, 190 girls and 10 students under training as teachers). There were in addition 325 children registered and awaiting admission. In 1926, the school for the first time sent in boys for the entrance examination to Chepstow (for enlistment into the Royal Engineers and the technical branches of the Army) and for the Royal Air Force. Ten boys passed the Chepstow examination and secured the ten annual vacancies allotted to the school and six out of the seven candidates for appointment as air-craft apprentices in the Royal Air Force were successful. The school presented 6 pupils (5 boys and 1 girl) for the Cambridge School Certificate Examination, of whom only one boy failed. For the Cambridge Junior Local Examination 14 pupils (8 boys and 6 girls) were presented, of whom 2 boys and 4 girls were successful. Eight pupils (4 boys and 4 girls) appeared for the European High School examination and 18 (8 boys and 10 girls) for the Middle School examination ; 5 (2 boys and 3 girls) and 14 (7 boys and 7 girls), respectively, were successful.

Physical and military training

There were 28 members on the rolls of the detachment of the Auxiliary Force and 150 cadets. Ninety-six cadets entered for the British Empire Challenge Shield Competition, with better results than in the previous year. The boys play cricket, hockey and football ; the girls play hockey, badminton and tennis and have companies of Girl Guides and Blue Birds.

Apart from an outbreak of chicken-pox in March 1927, the health of the school during the year was excellent.

Training school

Six students appeared for the Government Examination for European teachers held in December 1926. All of them passed, four of them taking the first four places in the Presidency, and all secured appointments as assistant teachers in recognized European schools in the Presidency.

The question of establishing this school on a permanent basis was under consideration.

Including the opening balance, the total income for the year was Rs. 3,69,750 and the expenditure Rs. 3,46,146, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 23,604.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS (1926-27)

[*Statistical Abstract for British India—Printing Presses and Publications*]

General

290. This section contains a brief discussion of the statistics furnished by certain libraries and the Madras Record Office and notes on the public press and registration of books.

Connemara Public Library

291. The use made of the Connemara Library by the public continues to increase. During the year under report the number of visitors rose from 34,312 in the previous year to 36,402 and the total number of volumes consulted from 34,563 to 38,901. The number of new standard works added to the library was 355, of which 241 were purchased and the remainder received as gifts or in exchange. The reclassification of books was begun during the year.

University Library

292. There was a marked increase in the use made of the University Library. The total number of readers was 29,610 as compared with 19,291 in 1925 and the total number of volumes consulted was 42,332 as against 27,627.

Oriental Manuscripts Library

293. Two hundred and two manuscripts, most of them relating to prose and poetry and to religion, were added to the Oriental Manuscripts Library during the year. The number of visitors to the library was 3,637 and the manuscripts and books consulted 4,812, as compared with 4,409 and 7,145, respectively, in 1925-26. Labels were prepared during the year for Persian, Arabic and Hindustani Manuscripts in the library. The printing of Sankhapani's "Commentary on the Brahmasiddhi" was continued.

Educational associations and reading rooms

294. Educational associations and reading rooms continue to increase both in number and strength. During the year, there were 2,086 teachers' associations with a total membership of 93,531 (91,529 males and 2,002 females); in the previous year there were 1,950 associations with a total membership of 91,334. There were 954 reading rooms and literary societies, of which 97 were registered and 857 not registered.

Madras Record Office (1926-27)

295. Nearly 8,500 requisitions for papers and for information were received from the Secretariat, the Board of Revenue and other offices; 36 of these involved prolonged search among the records. In addition, there were 22 references from district revenue officers.

Progress was made in repairing old volumes up to 1,750; 114 volumes were repaired during the year. Other work done during the year included listing, cataloguing and indexing. The Danish records were examined and catalogued by a member of the Danish Mission. The sorting of the records of the Receiver of the Carnatic property was completed during the year. A systematic examination of all volumes up to 1,750 was undertaken with a view to detecting lacunae before proceeding with printing.

There were no new acquisitions other than the annual accession of records by transfer from the Secretariat and other offices and of books and publications from the Secretariat Library.

Publications

Despatches to England, 1714-27, Despatches from England, 1696-99, 1724-29, Diary and Consultation Book, 1706-08 and Letters from Fort St. George, 1703-04 were edited. The Index and Prefatory Note to certain other despatches already printed were sent to press. As regards the Bāramahāl Records, the volume "Justice" was in process of publication. Volume XI of the translation of Ananda Ranga Pillai's Diary was issued and the printing of Volume XII was in progress.

Periodicals (1926)

296. During the year 1926, 280 newspapers were actually published in the Presidency, of which 95 appeared in Madras City and 185 in the mufassal.

Statistics

Eight newspapers were published in the French Settlements of Pondicherry and Karaikal. Fifty-six newspapers were published in English, 105 in Tamil and 64 in Telugu.

Circulation

There was a considerable rise in the circulation of the *Hindu*, from 13,500 in 1925 to 17,500 in 1926. The *Hindu* enjoys a much larger circulation than any other newspaper in the Presidency and its well-organized news agencies no doubt contribute to its popularity. In this respect it is distinctly superior to the *Madras Mail*, the most popular paper among Europeans. The *Madras Mail* was not able to recoup the fall in its circulation of two years ago and its circulation in 1926 (5,400) remained about the same as in the previous year. The circulation of *New India* and *Justice* fell considerably and the former paper has since ceased publication as a daily. There was no appreciable change in the circulation of the other English journals.

Among the Tamil journals, the circulation of the *Tamil Nadu* increased by 50 per cent to 6,000, a change in policy having attracted non-Brahman patronage. The circulation of the *Swadesamitran* fell considerably. There was little change in the circulation of other Tamil newspapers or in that of most of the Telugu journals with the exception of the *Vivekavati*, whose circulation increased.

Tone of the press

There was little change in the tone of the press during the year under report. The *Hindu* continued to be an uncompromising critic of the Government, commanding attention by the literary quality of its leading articles. The *Swarajya* attacked the Government vehemently on every possible occasion, although an uneventful year provided fewer opportunities for criticism than in the past. The following prominent subjects were discussed in articles which suffered from neither understatement nor lack of rhetoric:—Lord Reading's departure and Viceroyalty, Sir Alexander Muddiman's speech on the Reforms, the Taxation Committee's proposals and the Currency Commission report, the personnel of the Agricultural Commission, the reservation of posts in the Indian Medical Service for Europeans, the Lee Commission

concessions to the railways, the relations between the Government of India and the Nizam of Hyderabad, and the Malabar Tenancy Bill. A welcome exception to the general denunciation was the articles on the speeches made by His Excellency Lord Irwin soon after his arrival in India; their eloquence undoubtedly touched a responsive chord.

Registration of Books (1926-27)

297. During the year, 3,558 books and 919 periodicals were registered. The figures for the previous year were 3,526 and 847 respectively. Religion, with 36 per cent of the total number of publications, continued to be the most prominent subject of literary activity. Works on medicine increased in number, due chiefly to attempts to revive the study of indigenous medicine. The number of political publications fell considerably. Of the total number of publications registered, 1,428 were in Tamil, 1,115 in Telugu and 958 in English; these numbers vary little from those of the previous year. Malayalam and Kanarese publications, however, fell in number, while those in Oriya nearly trebled.

The tone and style of the publications presented for registration were on the whole healthy and progressive.

LITERARY SOCIETIES

298. *Vide* pages 252 to 254 of the Report on the Administration of the Madras Presidency for the year 1921-22.

ARTS AND SCIENCES (1926-27)

Government Museum

299. Progress was made in all sections during the year under report.

Ethnology

The appointment of a part-time Ethnological Assistant made it possible, for the first time since 1909, to prepare plans for ethnological investigations. Attention is being concentrated on the backward tribes of the plains,—the study of which

will, it is hoped, illuminate the customs of the South Indian peoples,—and also on South Indian marriage customs. The addition of a draftsman-photographer to the archæological and ethnological staff has made possible the printing and classification of a number of negatives that have long remained unsorted and therefore of little use.

Numismatics

The cataloguing of gold coins was finished during the year ; 608 coins were catalogued under 31 different dynasties. The silver coins are now being catalogued ; the preliminary study of the silver Mughal coins has been completed and they were found to belong to the reigns of 20 different kings. The study of coins received under the Treasure Trove Act has brought to light the existence of gold coins of new dynasties which require, however, further verification before they can be definitely identified.

The cataloguing of the bronze images was also completed during the year. It is proposed to publish an account of the collections when the photographs are ready. Further measures to combat signs of corrosion among these images were found necessary.

Architecture

Several lantern lectures were delivered during the year on the various styles of Dravidian temple architecture characteristic of different periods, and a series of enlarged photographs illustrating the different styles was prepared and hung in one of the galleries.

Botany

The account of the littoral fauna of Krusadai Island has been completed as far as is at present possible ; there are certain difficulties in the way of further investigation.

The account of the flowering plants of Madras City and its immediate neighbourhood was completed during the year and is undergoing final revision before being sent to the Press.

Visitors

The number of visitors is steadily increasing : there was a further increase during the year under report. The Dwadesi and Kannupongal festivals as usual attracted large crowds.

Theatre

The Museum Theatre was in great demand and was used on 29 occasions during the year, ten of these being performances by the Madras Dramatic

Society and three concerts of the Madras Musical Association.

Meteorology (1926-27)

300. During the year, the Government of India sanctioned the appointment of a whole-time Assistant Meteorologist in place of the part-time Meteorologist and Deputy Director. The chief work of the Madras Meteorological Office continued to be the publication of a daily weather report based on observations recorded at 8 a.m. local time at 25 stations in the Presidency. The report was issued to subscribers at Rs. 3 per month. It was also supplied free to certain technical departments and to newspapers. The Madras Observatory having been selected as one of the stations for upper air work, observations of upper air wind velocity and direction by the flight of pilot balloons were regularly made from 8th April 1926.

Astronomy

Kodaikānal Observatory

301. The Kodaikānal Observatory is devoted mainly to solar research work, but complete meteorological and seismometric records are also maintained. During the year 1926, the record of solar activity was continued as in former years.

The collection of spectroheliograms from foreign observatories for those days on which records could not be obtained at Kodaikānal was continued as part of the programme of the International Astronomical Union and the combined data have been taken into consideration in the compilation and discussion of statistics relating to prominence phenomena.

Spectroheliograms of the sun's disc in calcium light were obtained on 344 days, in hydrogen light on 328 days and of prominences on the limb on 311 days. Direct solar photographs on a scale of 8 inches to the diameter were taken on 345 days.

In consequence of the advance of the sunspot cycle, there has been a large increase in sunspot activity as compared with the previous year, the increase being greater in the southern hemisphere. The approximate mean latitude of the spots was 18·5 in the northern hemisphere and 17·2 in the southern. There was an increase in the number of active and disturbed spots.

An unusually bright filament on the sun was photographed on the 22nd February 1926, the whole development of the bright filament being exhibited in the series of spectroheliograms obtained at Kodaikānal on that day. In point of brilliance, extent and completeness of the observations, this example exceeds any other in the Kodaikānal record and is believed to be the finest ever photographed. A dark marking which was first seen on the 18th December 1925 and disappeared on the 16th April 1926, attained on the 21st February 1926 an area which exceeded in size any previously recorded at Kodaikānal.

Prominence activity derived from Kodaikānal photographic records showed an increase of 31 per cent in areas and 6 per cent in numbers as compared with the year 1925 and the maximum of prominence activity in high latitudes has advanced about 10° towards the poles. An eruptive prominence on the 10th December 1926 was observed to ascend rapidly to a height of 14′ or 400,000 miles.

Madras Observatory

The only astronomical observations made at the Madras Observatory are those necessary for the maintenance of an accurate time service for the whole of India. The time gun at Fort St. George failed on 38 out of 730 occasions, giving a percentage of success of 94·8. Most of the failures were due to faults in the firing apparatus at the Fort or to contacts on the line outside the Observatory. The time ball failed to drop on 19 occasions at 1 p.m. but on 17 of these occasions it dropped correctly at 2 p.m.

The 22-hour wireless time signals from Calcutta were received correctly except on a few occasions, when the apparatus was found to require minor repairs.

The 16-hour roll of signals was sent daily to the telegraph office for distribution as usual.

CHAPTER VIII

ARCHÆOLOGY AND EPIGRAPHY (1926-27)

Archæology

302. A total amount of Rs. 27,818 was spent during the year on the conservation of ancient monuments and on the upkeep of roads and pathways connected with them. This expenditure comprised over one hundred different items including the usual annual repairs and maintenance of watchmen. The heaviest expenditure was incurred at the Hampi Ruins, the Seven Pagodas, the Fort at Gingee, the St. Francis Church at Cochin, the Fort at Masulipatam, the Gopalakrishna and Siva temples at Timmalapuram, the Citadel at Penukonda, the Hill Fort at Uchchangidurgam, the Dutch Fort and Cemetery at Sadras, the Dutch Cemetery at Pulicat, the Choutar's Palace at Mudabidri, the Dansborg Castle at Tranquebar and the Hill Forts in the Salem district. All these interesting and important monuments are now in good repair and are provided with roads and pathways for the benefit of visitors.

Trial excavations costing Rs. 1,693-9-0 were carried out during the year at Allūru and Gummadidurru in the Nandigama taluk, Kistna district. At Gummadidurru, the excavation brought to light a Buddhist Stūpa decorated with very fine stone sculptures in the Amarāvati style. Further excavations are in progress.

Epigraphy

303. During the year, 155 villages were visited and copies of 633 inscriptions were secured. Four copper-plate records were also received for examination. The detailed survey of the Māyavaram taluk (Tanjore district) was completed, and that of the Kumbakōnam taluk (Tanjore district) and of the Kalyāndrug taluk (Anantapur district) was begun. Fifty-six photographs were secured from the Rāmnād, Madura and Tanjore districts.

The records collected during the year are representative in character, relating as they do not only to the chief ruling dynasties of South India but also to several minor chiefs of local importance, such as the Ālupas, the Travancore and Cochin rulers, the Sambuvarāyas, the Nāyakas of Tanjore and Madura, the Ariyalūr chiefs, and others. The most notable event of the year was the discovery of 20 more Brāhmī inscriptions at Nāgārjunikonda in the Guntūr district belonging to the Ikhāku dynasty of kings who ruled this region in the 3rd century A.D. and of whom three generations were given in the records copied last year. These are Chātamūla, his son Purisadata, and the latter's son Bahuvala Chātamūla. This year's epigraphs reveal the names of several royal members and chiefs of the time and also help in the location of certain Buddhist centres of importance. At Rāmireddipalli in the Kistna district there was found, in addition to a Brāhmī inscription, an early Sanskrit epigraph in characters of about the eighth century A.D. engraved on the pedestal of an image of Buddha sculptured on a pillar, recording its erection. Next in importance are the three Brāhmī labels found on the bed of a natural cavern in the Nāgamalai hills near Sōlavandān in the Madura district, recording the names of Buddhist mendicants who had occupied the cavern in the 2nd or 3rd century B.C. Reference is made in an inscription of the Tanjore-Nāyaka ruler Sevvappa to a Buddhist temple as late as the 16th century A.D. at Tiruvilandurai in the Tanjore district.

An inscription of Rājēndra-Chōla I, found in Pattīsvaram in the Tanjore district, mentions a Siva temple as having been raised as a *pallippadai* in Palaiyāru, evidently over the remains of the Chōḷa queen Pañchavaṉ-Mahādēvī, thus showing that the practice of constructing sepulchral structures or *samādhi-temples* existed in South India. A record from Tīttāṇḍatāṇapuram in the Rāmnād district belonging to the Pāṇḍya king Jaṭāvarman Vīra-Pāṇḍya testifies to the existence of the two trading corporations

Añjuvaṇṇam and *Maṇigrāmam* so late as the last quarter of the 13th century. They have been met with in the Kōṭṭayam Christian charters of the end of the 9th century A.D.; but from references to *Maṇigrāmam* in other inscriptions, it is inferred that it was a general name applied to mercantile guilds without any reference to the religion of its members.

From Tāḷakkāḍ in the Cochin State comes a record of the early Chēra ruler named Rāyaśiṅga-Perumānaḍigaḷ, of whom inscriptions had not so far been secured.

A curious inscription copied at Śrīvilliputtur, in the Tinnevelly district, purports to be a love-letter from the god Raṅganātha to Kōdai (Saint Aṇḍāḷ), daughter of Vishṇuchitta of Puduvai (Śrīvilliputtūr), and contains a long preface into which many expressions from her works *Tiruppāvai* and the *Nāchchiyār-Tirumoḷi* have been introduced.

The rules framed for the election of members to the assembly of Kulōttuṅgaśōḷan-Taṇināyaka-chaturvēdimangalam in Rājādhirājavaḷanāḍu in the 12th century A.D., form the subject of an inscription found in Talaināyar in the Tanjore district. These rules required that candidates should be erudite, should not have been members of the assembly during the previous ten years, and even that they should not be related to previous members of the assembly.

The inscriptions of the year also give information of varied interest connected with the social and religious activities of early times, such as, for example, the construction of a temple exclusively dedicated to the Sun-god at Sūryanārkōyil in the Tanjore district in the 12th century, the settlement of boundary disputes and communal feuds that arose between the two castes Dōvēndra-kuṭumbar and Paraiyar of Śrīvilliputtūr, the punishment awarded to Rāja-drōhins and Śiva-drōhins in a case of embezzlement of temple property and the protection given to refugees in the village of Śrīvilliputtūr.

CHAPTER IX

MISCELLANEOUS

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

304. *Vide* pages 259 to 262 of the Report on the administration of the Madras Presidency for the year 1921-22.

ECCLESIASTICAL (1926-27)

Church of England

305. At the end of the year there were in all 290 clerks in Holy Orders officiating under the licence of the Bishop of Madras. Of these clergymen, 110 were officiating under the episcopal charge of the Bishop in Tinnevelly and Madura and 87 under the Bishop of Dornakal. Three chaplains were granted leave out of India during the year. One vacancy was caused by the resignation of a probationary chaplain and was filled by a chaplain recruited in England.

During the year, one Indian and two Europeans were ordained deacons and three Indians and three Europeans were ordained priests by the Bishop of Madras, while the Bishop in Tinnevelly and Madura ordained one European deacon and one Indian priest and the Bishop of Dornakal ordained, under commission from the Bishop of Madras, ten deacons and nine priests, all of whom were Indians. Twenty clergymen received licences to officiate as chaplains, English ministers, missionaries or Indian pastors; of these licences, four were issued by the Bishop in Tinnevelly and Madura and ten by the Bishop of Dornakal.

St. Luke's Church at Kotagiri was consecrated on the 19th of March 1927. The Cobb Institute at Bangalore was licensed on the 6th of December 1926 for the purpose of holding divine service.

Alms and other offerings made through the clergymen ministering to English congregations during the year amounted to Rs. 1,92,786.

Church of Scotland

306. The establishment of the Church of Scotland consisted of the Presidency Senior Chaplain at Madras, one chaplain at Bangalore and one chaplain at Secunderabad, who was attached to the 1st Battalion, the Gordon Highlanders and was also in charge of the civil chaplaincy of St. Andrew's Church, Secunderabad.

STATIONERY (1926-27)

Opening balance

307. The value of stock with the Superintendent of Stationery at the beginning of the year 1926-27 was Rs. 7,82,239 (English stores Rs. 4,57,445 and Indian stores Rs. 3,24,794) as against Rs. 9,94,319 (English stores Rs. 4,24,644 and Indian stores Rs. 5,69,675) in 1925-26.

Receipts

The total value of stores received during the year amounted to Rs. 10,47,550 (English stores Rs. 6,96,425 and Indian stores Rs. 3,51,125) as against Rs. 8,16,402 (English stores Rs. 4,61,650 and Indian stores Rs. 3,54,752) in 1925-26.

Issues

The total value of stores issued during the year amounted to Rs. 11,51,583 (English stores Rs. 6,59,869 and Indian stores Rs. 4,91,714) as against Rs. 10,28,482 (English stores Rs. 4,28,849 and Indian stores Rs. 5,99,633) in 1925-26.

Local funds

The value of stationery debited to Local Funds etc. and of stationery issued on payment during the year 1926-27 amounted to Rs. 25,181 as against Rs. 32,544 in 1925-26.

Closing balance

The value of the closing balance of stores for the year was Rs. 6,78,206 (English stores Rs. 4,94,001 and Indian stores Rs. 1,84,205) as against Rs. 7,82,239 (English stores Rs. 4,57,445 and Indian stores Rs. 3,24,794) in 1925-26.

GOVERNMENT PRESS (1926-27)

Finance

308. The net receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 2,16,936 as compared with Rs. 1,99,468 in the previous year, the increase being due to recoveries on account of publications supplied to Central Officers. The gross expenditure rose from Rs. 7,45,603 to Rs. 9,05,084, the items of depreciation and convict labour having been debited for the first time against the Press Budget.

Publications

309. Acts and books to the stock value of Rs. 19,325 were added during the year and sales including those of the commission agents amounted to Rs. 21,638. The sales effected through agents rose from Rs. 4,464 to Rs. 5,399. The value of repealed Acts and obsolete publications written off during the year was Rs. 2,530, while free issues amounted to Rs. 35,233 against Rs. 37,522 in 1925-26, the decrease being due to the fact that less expensive publications were distributed. The total number of copies supplied free was 418,866 including 27,580 copies of proceedings placed on the "Editors' table."

Printing and binding

310. The total work charges in respect of printing and binding amounted to Rs. 9,28,683, the cost of paper and binding materials to Rs. 2,12,057 and the cost of maps, stores and blocks to Rs. 15,972.

Miscellaneous

311. The total production of types, mono leads and rules, materials and plates in the type-foundry during the year was 71,814 lb. The total expenditure on account of the supply of and repairs to rubber stamps amounted to Rs. 4,719. Plant to the value of Rs. 1,78,709 was added against Rs. 2,07,485 in 1925-26 ; the high figure in 1925-26 was due to the purchase of machines for special purposes not hitherto used in the Press. The book value of the plant after deducting depreciation at the close of the year was Rs. 14,74,617. The stock of stores closed with a balance of Rs. 1,56,642 as against Rs. 1,46,656 in the previous year. Printing bills on account of Government work executed at private presses, scrutinized and passed during the year amounted to Rs. 18,750 as against Rs. 536 in the

previous year, the abnormal increase being due to the printing of the Legislative electoral rolls. The value of bills checked for private bodies rose from Rs. 35,611 in 1925-26 to Rs. 40,355 in the year under report, the increase being due to the scrutiny of the printing bills of the newly constituted Andhra University. The total number of forms and covers despatched during the year was 129 millions.

General

312. In order to relieve to some extent the congestion in the Government Press, the work of printing the settlement registers and village memoirs for the Board of Revenue was given to private contractors.

THE CHEMICAL EXAMINER'S DEPARTMENT (1926)

[*Annual Report of the Chemical Examiner's Department*; *Statistical Abstract for British India—Medico-legal investigations*]

General

313. The steady increase in the work of the Chemical Examiner's Department continued during the year under report. The total number of analyses performed was 4,637 as compared with 4,227 in 1925. The increase occurred both in medico-legal and general analyses, particularly in the number of cases requiring the examination of stains.

Medico-legal investigations

Human poisoning

314. Two hundred and fifty cases of suspected human poisoning were investigated and poison was detected in 109 cases. Opium was again the most common poison (found in 25 cases) but mercury and arsenic were also prominent (23 and 20 cases respectively). Among the more unusual poisons were three cases in which *oduvan* leaves were used; its botanical name is *Cleistanthus collinus*, Berth. The tests for this poison given in Dymoch's *Pharmacographica Indica* were found not to work and the Department had to evolve a test of its own. Investigations were also made by the Department into tests for yellow oleander, a fairly common poison in Madras.

The number of animal poisoning cases investigated was 41, which is about half the average number for the last ten years. Poison was detected in 18 cases, arsenic and yellow oleander (each found in 8 cases) being as usual the most common poisons. Animal poisoning

There were 545 stain cases involving the examination of 2,231 articles. This class of examination has persistently increased during the last 20 years; ten years ago (in 1916) there were 256 cases and 20 years ago (in 1906) there were 105 cases. This is undoubtedly due to the more scientific investigation of murders, for it has become the established routine to send articles stained with blood, or suspected to be stained with blood, for chemical examination. One thousand five hundred and four specimens of blood stains were sent to the Imperial Serologist, Calcutta. Of the 19 miscellaneous medico-legal cases investigated during the year, six were concerned with bombs and one with the charred fragments of bones. Stain cases

315. In addition to medico-legal investigations, 640 general analyses were performed as compared with 497 in the previous year. There was a large increase in the number of samples received from the Customs Department (from 249 in 1925 to 392), some of which involved an analysis new to the Department. This was the estimation of the proportion of mechanical wood pulp. used in the manufacture of paper and was required in connection with an alteration in the customs tariff on imported paper. The results of the test employed were found to be in substantial agreement with those obtained by the Chemical Analyser, Bombay. Another analysis which demanded protracted investigation was the identification of dye intermediaries in connection with a case of the infringement of a patent. The experiments connected with the estimation of iodine in soils continued and the results of the method finally adopted are to be published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research. General analyses

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS (1926-27)

Institutions

316. There were 3,204 charitable institutions at work in the Presidency and their total income during the year was Rs. 21,28,791 and 20 muras of rice. Of these institutions, 2,096 were maintained entirely by endowments in land and money and by subscriptions and donations from the general public, the total receipts amounting to Rs. 11·09 lakhs. Two hundred and twenty-seven institutions were supported by Government at a cost of Rs. 2·17 lakhs and 201 were maintained partly by Government and partly by the public at a cost of Rs. 4·18 lakhs. The maintenance of the remaining 680 institutions, costing Rs. 3·85 lakhs, devolved wholly or in part on local bodies.

Purpose of institutions

The purpose served by most of the institutions (1,959) was the relief of travellers. Of these, 1,076 were reserved for Hindus and 40 for Muhammadans, while 843 were without distinction of community. Five hundred and thirty-eight institutions were devoted to the relief of Brahmans and these were almost entirely supported by the general public. The number of institutions intended for the relief of paupers was 543, while the total number for orphans, the blind, the deaf and lepers was only 9. The total number of persons aided during the year by all the charitable institutions is reported to be 14,094,970.

Triplicane Langarkhana

317. The receipts of the Triplicane Langarkhana, including an opening balance of Rs. 237, amounted to Rs. 5,258, as against Rs. 5,536 in the previous year. The daily average number of paupers who received help from the institution was 181, as compared with 188 in the previous year.

Monegar Choultry

318. There was an increase in the number of admissions to the Monegar Choultry from 54 to 86 and a slight fall in the daily average number of inmates from 67·42 to 64·05. The daily average cost of diet per pauper decreased from Re. 0-4-7 to Re. 0-3-6 and was due to the replacement during the year under report of the old contract system by the direct purchase of supplies from the market under the supervision of one of the Directors. Of the 86 persons admitted during the year, 50 were sent by

the Police, 28 from hospitals, 5 by Directors of the choultry and 3 by the Protector of Emigrants. The total receipts, including the opening balance in the Bank, amounted to Rs. 12,565. The total expenditure was Rs. 11,019, the cost of establishment alone amounting to Rs. 3,422 or over 30 per cent of the total expenditure. The Government apprehends that this figure is unduly high for a charitable institution and has requested the Board of Directors to consider the possibility of reducing it.

Raja of Venkatagiri Choultry

319. The average daily number of outdoor paupers receiving raw rice at the Raja of Venkatagiri Choultry was 144, as in the previous year.

The total receipts during the year, including the opening balance in the Bank, was Rs. 4,504, as compared with Rs. 5,789 in the previous year ; the total expenditure was Rs. 4,000 as against Rs. 5,311. There was a saving of Rs. 960 in the expenditure on rice which was due, as in the case of the Monegar Choultry, to the introduction of the system of direct purchase.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE SERVICE OF GOVERNMENT (1926-27)

320. The number of Government servants from each community employed in the service of Government on the 1st April 1927 is shown in the following table :—

Community.	Gazetted officers.	Non-gazetted officers in permanent appointments on a pay of		
		Rs. 100 and over.	Rs. 35 and upwards but below Rs. 100.	Less than Rs. 35.
Brahmans	599	3,627	10,220	1,238
Non Brahmans	282	1,995	7,367	35,314
Depressed classes	...	5	56	1,329
Muhammadans	64	331	1,721	11,199
Non-Asiatics and Anglo-Indians	543	506	93	55
Indian Christians	120	506	1,141	2,220
Others	17	16	41	225

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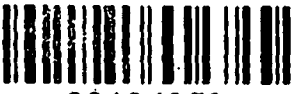
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